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# Is Nehru Trembling ?

Pakistan is at war with us. It has been at war with us right from August 15, 1947, the day we parted as friends and swore to live as good neighbours.

Pakistan does not understand friendship nor good neighbourliness whatever we do to please and appease it. With a number of easily smiling Moulvis and Maulanas in his Cabinet and drawing room, Pandit Nehru, our Prime Minister, has done almost everything under the sun to win the love and friendship of Pakistanis. For nine long years he has been rushing with open arms to embrace the Pakistanis as friends and neighbours. But he has always been repulsed.

Pakistanis call him a man of "infamous conduct", the "world's worst tyrant and oppressor", a "thoroughly unreliable man", a "man who murders men, women and children in Kashmir", a "man who holds on to his loot (Kashmir) etc" and a thousand other invectives. We have quoted from only one paper, "The Dawn". The abuses in Urdu papers cannot be repeated. They have given birth to a new language of abuse and hatred.

The other day (28-3-56) Nehru himself said in Lok Sabha: "I have never come across such concentrated venom and invective as in the Pakistani press."

Nehru richly deserves all the abuse he gets because he is in bad company. Nehru's one-sided secularity beginning and ending only with the conduct and sacrifices of the Hindus is completely lost on the Muslims of both India and Pakistan. Neither of them appreciates the lofty ideology of our Prime Minister. Taking Muslims into his Cabinet and surrounding himself with Moulvis and Maulanas of Delhi, Nehru has been toying with the idea that Muslims can be tamed and trained to become a secular race and live a peaceful life in a secular state. 66-year old Maulana Azad is the hot water bottle which Nehru hugs to give his palpitating heart some steadiness and moral support in this secular experiment. And with obstinacy characteristic of all idealists Nehru even allows the Maulana to turn his Education Ministry into a little Arabian oasis for Muslim pedlars in culture and education.

It is now too late in life for Pandit Nehru to realize that the company he is in would ever be elevating—because it is primarily a company of religious bigots who constantly seek to convert people to their own view, religion or fanaticism. And people who don't readily agree to this are either abused or killed.

The fanatic citizens of Pakistan who call every non-Muslim a 'kafir' and consider killing the 'kafir' as a free ticket to heaven cannot understand secularity at all. To ask them to do so is to ask them to deny their religion. Pandit Nehru is therefore wasting his breath in giving long-distance sermons of secularity and co-existence to a race of people who cannot even understand the primary alphabet of tolerance. And no one can blame the average Muslim of Pakistan if he does not understand the high-flown philosophical language of a higher way of living delivered in Hamletian accent by a Hindu Pandit of Kashmir. The Greek-and-Latin of peace and co-existence is lost on the average Muslim of Pakistan.

Talking of the influx of East Bengal refugees Pandit Nehru said the other day (2-4-1956), "We have received 4,000,000 out of 12,500,000 Hindus already. 50,000 more

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come out every month. It is an extraordinary situation to face."

It is not at all extraordinary to those who know the Muslims and their history. Let us give here some statistics for the benefit of our busy Prime Minister. There are 350 million Muslims in the world. They are scattered all over the world but in the main belt of Islam which embraces half the world we find them in 16 countries in overwhelming majorities. Here are the countries.

| *Country* | *Total Population* | *Muslim Population* |
|---|---|---|
| Lebanon | 1,400,000 | 40% |
| Turkey | 21,000,000 | 98% |
| Syria | 3,600,000 | 86% |
| Iraq | 4,820,000 | 96% |
| Iran | 20,400,000 | 97% |
| Afghanistan | 14,000,000 | 98% |
| Pakistan | 75,850,000 | 86% |
| Malaya | 5,800,000 | 60% |
| Morocco | 9,200,000 | 92% |
| Algeria | 9,500,000 | 89% |
| Egypt | 22,500,000 | 91% |
| Sudan | 8,971,000 | 84% |
| Yemen | 4,800,000 | 98% |
| Jordan | 1,500,000 | 93% |
| Saudi Arabia | 6,000,000 | 99% |
| Indonesia | 78,000,000 | 94% |

Note carefully the percentages of Muslim population in the countries mentioned above. With the solitary exception of Lebanon where 50% of the population is composed of early Christians, in the rest of the countries Muslims have practically liquidated people of other religions.

Does this emit any smell of democratic or secular existence? Well, what has happened in other Muslim countries of the world must happen in East Pakistan. The Hindus will either be converted or squeezed out. Because India is still considered strong enough to fight Pakistan if necessary, the Hindus in East Bengal are being only squeezed out. In another two years when Pakistan grows muscles with American arms, the Hindus that are still left in East Bengal will be converted to Islam overnight. Let the East Bengal Hindus make no mistake about that.

The Hindus of East Bengal should thank their stars that they are at least allowed to leave East Bengal at the moment for reasons mostly economical and partly political. Actually it hurts the fanatic Pakistani Muslim to see so many well-trapped Hindus escaping with their young women without being converted to Islam.

What does Pandit Nehru find extraordinary in this exodus which has repeated itself in Muslim history again and again? In these days of techniques Pakistan has adopted merely a slow-motion technique of squeezing out or converting—a technique that suits the Bengali Muslim admirably. The earlier Muslims of history were less subtle and more impatient. But the fanaticism is the same and therefore the results must be the same.

What Pandit Nehru must realize is that wherever there is a sizable concentration of Muslims, there is political and religious trouble. And that is why we are having trouble in Kashmir where there are 3 million Muslims in a total population of 4 million Kashmiris. Like the waters of the Ravi which flow into the mighty Indus, the Muslims of Kashmir must and will one day join the Muslims of Pakistan. Let us not nurse a wrong hope about this. Five times a day 350 million Muslims of the world turn their faces towards Mecca, with their backs to the rest of the world, in a ceremonial of prayer that binds in brotherhood two Muslims living on different poles of the earth.

In this fanatic tie of an intolerant religion there is no room for diplomacy, secularity, socialism, democracy, co-existence, Panchshila and other worldly techniques of uniting or dividing humanity. The Muslims of the world are perfectly united in prayer and hatred—prayer to Allah and hatred for the 'kafir'.

And that is why we are having trouble with Pakistan. If we didn't have 3 million Muslims in Kashmir and 40 million more in India, Pakistan probably would have been our best friend even as Turkey with its 98% Muslim population is of the rest of Europe.

But now Pakistan considers us as its greatest enemy —a nation of 'kafirs' worthy of a 'jehad' and deserving to be massacred without a second thought. And Pakistan has constantly nursed this thought on a national scale and never allowed its people to forget their hostility towards India with constant catcalls of "jehad" and "Islam in danger".

In pursuance of this fanatic objective, leave alone the abuses and invectives in newspapers which made even Nehru wilt with disgust, the Pakistanis in the last four years have continuously raided our border towns and killed and kidnapped many Indians apart from looting cattle and property.

Pakistan's score-board during the last 4 years, as far as we could collect the statistics from newspaper reports, reads as follows:

| | *Raids* | *Killed* | *Wounded* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan Border | 310 | 35 | 87 |
| West Pakistan | 263 | 12 | 310 |
| West and East Bengal | 284 | 6 | not known |
| Assam | 85 | 9 | 43 |
| Kashmir | 186 | 40 | not known |

The pitched battles of Chhad Bet, Nekowal, Ferozepur Border and Bangabazar (Assam) are not included in this score.

And all these raids and battles were successful in taking their toll of Indian life and property because our peace-loving Prime Minister does not want us to retaliate even in self-defence. He is afraid of starting the third world war, so he counts the dead in the context of our huge Hindu population (only Hindus are killed in these border raids as Muslims are safe in the drawing rooms of the nation) and tells the people to forget the incidents. Forgetting over 1200 incidents involving loot, arson and killing is a bit difficult for us but then to maintain the principles of Panchshila Indians have always to bathe in the blood of their martyrs and leave the battlefield without raising even an arm in self-defence.

Now after the recent visit of John Foster Dulles, America's Secretary of State, to Karachi, Pakistan has become more arrogant and cheeky in its demands. Pakistanis have started rattling American arms and once again we hear the wild and fanatic cries of "jehad" with an increasing number of border incidents. And because Muslims usually abuse a man before they strike him, we find a fresh shower of abuse and invective being now turned on our noble and peace-loving Prime Minister. Is Pakistan getting ready to strike?

Way back in February 1954 when Pakistan signed the Arms Pact with America, we had written, "This military aid will take the practical shape of tanks, guns, cannons, ammunition, fighter aircraft, bombs, bazookas or even an atom bomb.....Once this dangerous cargo is delivered, it will be time for India to start trembling because we do not possess even one piece of such modern war equipment as America proposes to supply to Pakistan."

Have we started trembling? Let Pandit Nehru answer that question.

Addressing his usual mammoth public meeting in Delhi on April 13, 1956, two years after the Pak-American Arms Pact, Pandit Nehru told his people, "I told the Pakistani leaders clearly: 'I think that you have committed a lot of excesses and zoolum in Kashmir. You have no right to sit on a part of Kashmir that is under you. But since my desire is only this that there should be no clash and upheaval, I am willing to accept that the question of the part of Kashmir which is under you should be settled by demarcating the border on the basis of the present cease-fire line. We have no desire to take it by fighting.'

"I agree that it is not the intention of the U.S. that the U.S. military aid to Pakistan should be used against India. But the fact is that this has increased the strength of Pakistan to attack India."


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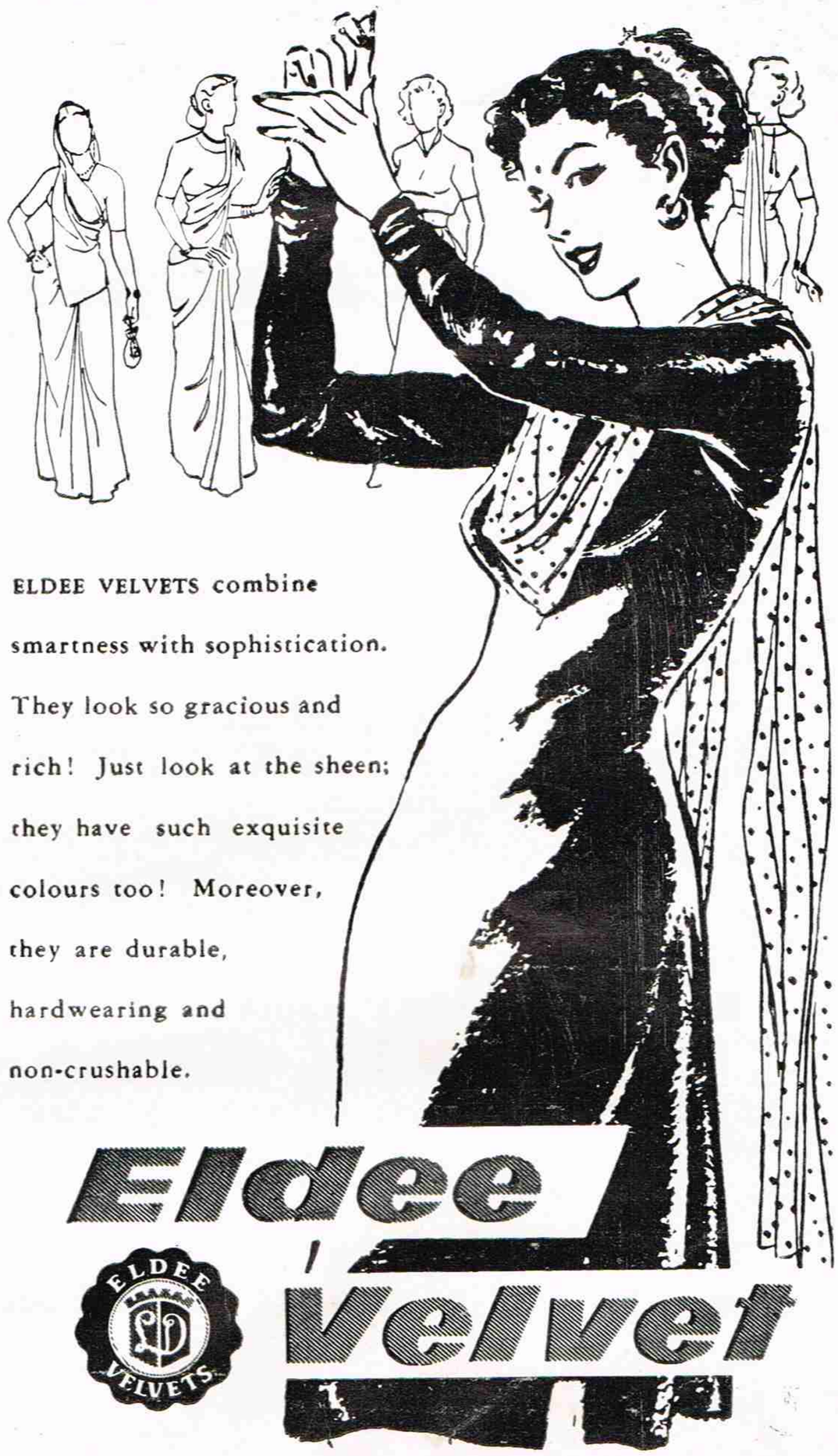

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And that comes from a man who had once said that he would not allow an inch of Kashmir territory to go to Pakistan.

Have we started trembling?

In that same article "Our Hour Of Peril" in our February 1954 issue, two years before this day of trembling, we had written: "Modern American arms in the hands of Muslim fanatics of Pakistan are going to be very dangerous instruments of death and destruction and believe us that Pakistan won't miss the opportunity of making India the first target of her newly-acquired striking power. (Note incidents at Chaad Bet, Nekowal, Ferozepur Border and Bangabazar.) And Indians will be pitiably helpless in their idealistic peace and dynamic neutrality."

But no one cared for our warning nor for the elaborate plan we had suggested in the same article for arming and training our people.

Nehru can now hear the Pakistani guns in New Delhi. They have a bark that scares our peace pigeon.

With the Pakistani guns barking on our borders, Pakistan has begun sabotaging us in our own country. In the riots at Bhopal during the first week of April, Muslims are reported to have defiled Hindu idols, thrown bones into the Holi fire and stabbed and killed Hindus. Police had to open fire several times and impose Section 144 to control the riots. Six Pakistani nationals, who had come on temporary permits, have been arrested by the police for instigating the riots. An unlicensed wireless transmitter used for keeping in touch with Pakistan was also seized in Bhopal by the police.

Muslims are also organizing trouble in the South—particularly in Trivandrum, Alleppey and Madras. We understand that the Hyderabad Razakars have also been alerted and asked to keep ready in the event of a shooting war between India and Pakistan. Muslim League elements in Bombay—particularly the old political workers—have been meeting every day and openly bragging of Pakistan's newly acquired military strength.

Yes, Pakistan has already got us trembling. Let us therefore tremble a little more and get rid of those three million Muslims of Kashmir who are living on our blood and money and sighing and smiling for Pakistan. Nehru knows that the Muslims of Kashmir are not our people and that is why he has been avoiding a plebiscite in Kashmir. We do not want the beautiful Valley of Kashmir because it contains millions of Muslims who are not our friends and who will never belong to us even in an eternity. Let us give away Srinagar and the damn valley and keep Jammu, the homeland of Kashmiri Hindus, for us. That will settle the Kashmir quarrel with Pakistan at least temporarily and we can stop trembling and rest our nerves for a while.

And why do we say "temporarily"? Temporarily because once the Kashmir Muslims join the flock, Pakistan will start flaunting its sympathy for India's 40 million Muslims and demand either land or safeguards for them.

That will keep the kettle of hatred boiling and the people of Pakistan busy with abuse and invective. And once the sinews of war pile up, Pakistan will be finally ready to attack India, say in another two years.

For, apart from reclaiming its 40 million Muslims, Pakistan wants our Red Fort, the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, the Qutub Minar and a thousand other tombs of Muslim pirs and princes—not to mention young Hindu women for lust and license. These are not secret ambitions. These are items on the menus of conquest printed in Pakistan's newspapers.

Even today if Pakistan decides to take a desperate chance and invade India, all we can offer the invaders by way of resistance is perhaps a copy of Panchshila.

Now read again what we had written in February 1954:

"Who and what could have brought us to this pitiably helpless state of existence? Only one man is responsible for our sad and tragic plight. And that man is Pandit Nehru. Let us make no mistake about this, however much we may love this man.....

"His rule has been a long career of mistakes. His appeasement of Muslims in the pursuit of an ideal secular state has created a colony of sulking traitors right in the midst of millions of his worshippers. His secular experiment in Kashmir put brigands in the robes of purple and gold and brought disgrace and disillusionment to a peace-loving, secular nation. His foreign policy of sitting on the fence too long in the clownish garb of helpless neutrality lost us all friends in the field of international politics. His endless babble on every subject and every country under the sun emasculated a people whose manly traditions were a fear of the world once."

Our borders are being violated almost every third day by Pakistan's armed raiders. Our people who live on our borders are in danger every minute of their existence. We cannot protect them effectively because we do not have the strength which Pakistan has today and we cannot risk exposing what little strength we have today. That is God's truth and let us face it.

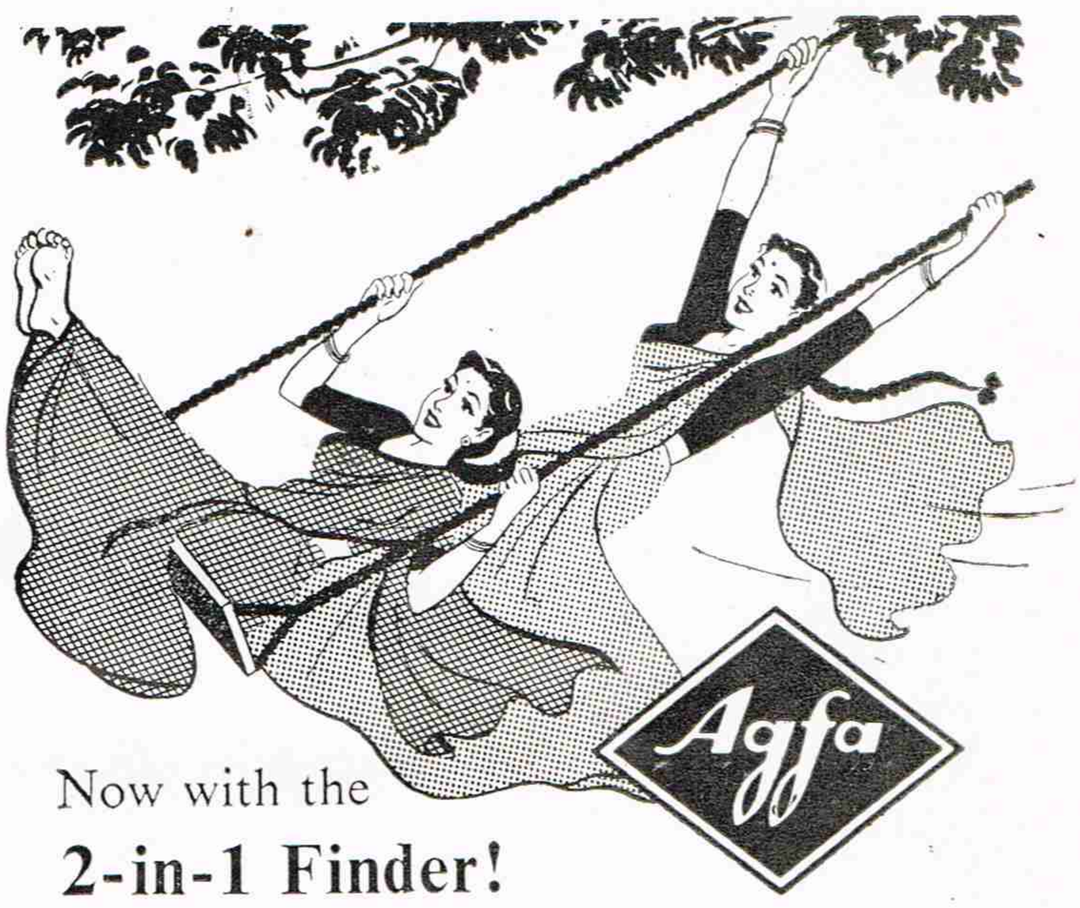
Nehru cannot save us from the danger that threatens us today. He is a peace pigeon and his is the way of reason and compromise in which Pakistanis don't believe. Nehru can save us temporarily—note the word temporarily again—by handing over the Kashmir Valley to Pakistan. That will give us time to breathe.

If Nehru does not do that then let him prepare the nation for a position of strength. Because strength is the only argument Pakistan can understand. But Nehru won't do that either. Arms frighten this man. He is scared of war, even a defensive war.

Our people are thus between the devil and the deep sea. Hypnotized as they are by Nehru's glamour and personality they cannot even help themselves. They richly deserve to perish.

And yet this is an hour when people should take the initiative themselves and prepare to defend their homes and families. And our people will have to be always ready and prepared as long as Pakistan is our neighbour. Because we have a neighbour who believes in carnage and conversion as a religion.

"Girnar", Baburao Patel.
14-4-1956.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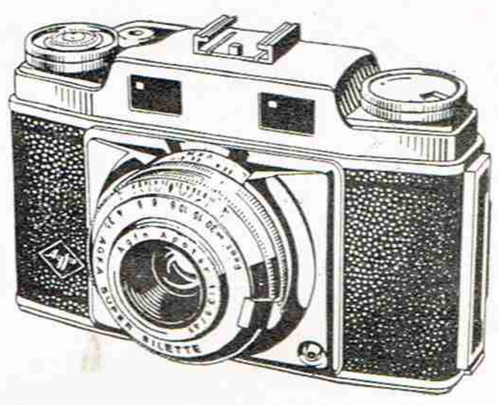

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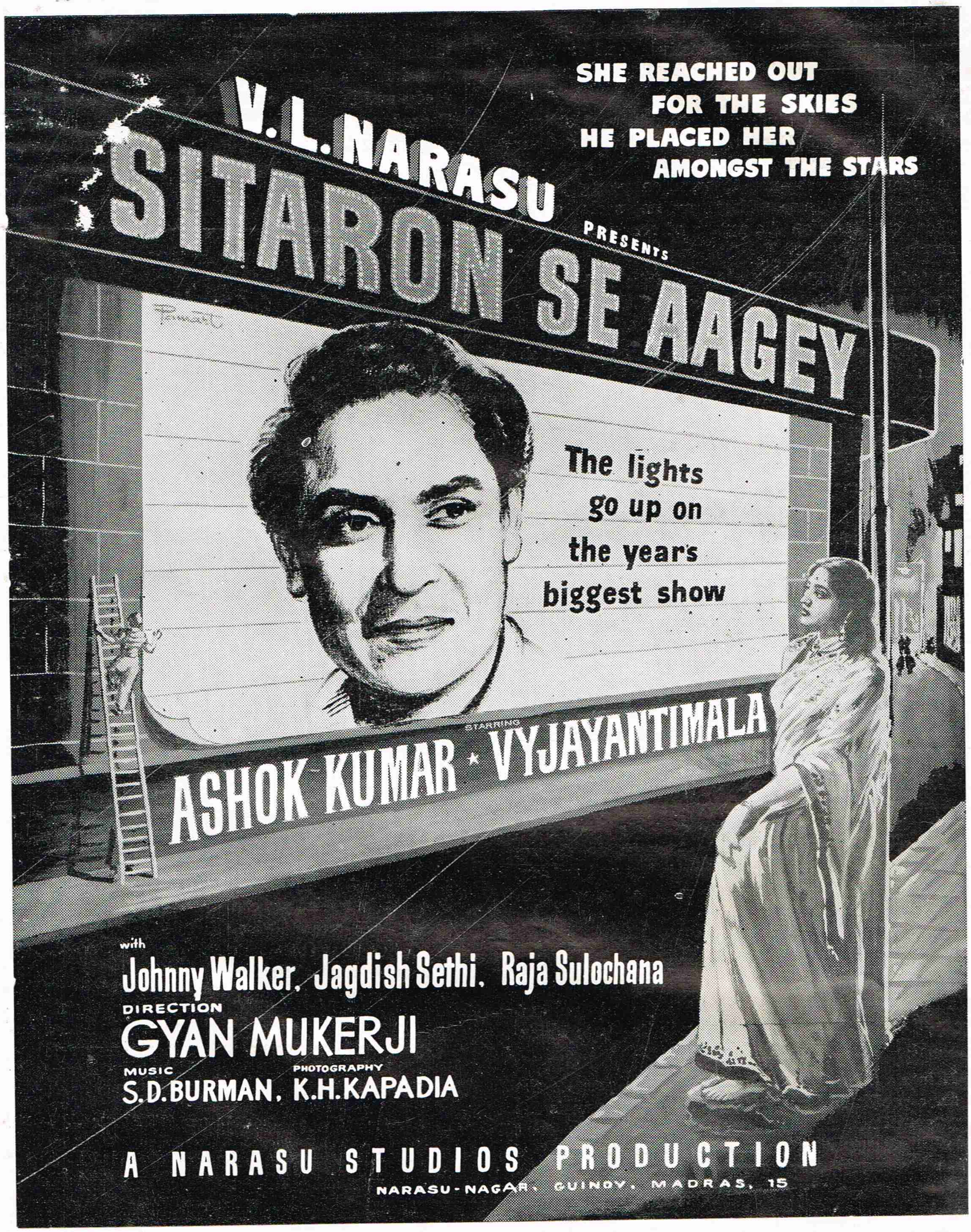


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*(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)*

**Ah, what an oyster! This one is a pearl oyster suitable for supper. Let us see what Suryakumar, the popular dancer, is doing with bedroom-eyed Vijayalakshmi in "Mr. Lambu", a social romance.**

**RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Jullundur)**

**What is the harm if Raj marries Nargis?**

The Government of India will be overthrown, its entire character will be ruined and Congressmen will be called traitors for centuries to come. Raj and Nargis must set an example in patriotism by travelling parallel like railway lines but never meeting till the ashes of the last Congressman on earth are safely thrown into the different rivers of India, that is Bharat.

**Why is Iris still waiting?**

Iris is fastidious. She wants an Englishman with good legs.

**Shammi Kapoor doesn't whistle now?**

Gita answers the whistle every time. Even a whistle has to have variety.

**I am only an amateur bluffer?**

I am sorry I can't take any notice of your talent. In bluffing only professional status is recognized.

**Yashodhara Kathju is to be wed, I hear?**

At last! Bless her soul! She will give a good performance, I am sure.

**I can't understand Nadira. Do you?**

I never tried to.

**G. N. PAI (Bombay)**

**If Nehru practises law?**

The judge will hang himself through sheer confusion.

**In ancient days girls used to cover their chests fully. But now?**

The hydrogen bombs have taken the day temperature to 10. degrees. You can't put the ancient packing with that heat on.

**Several C.I.D.'s after Acharya Kripalani. For what?**

They are studying anatomy. Kripalani is a rare skeleton.

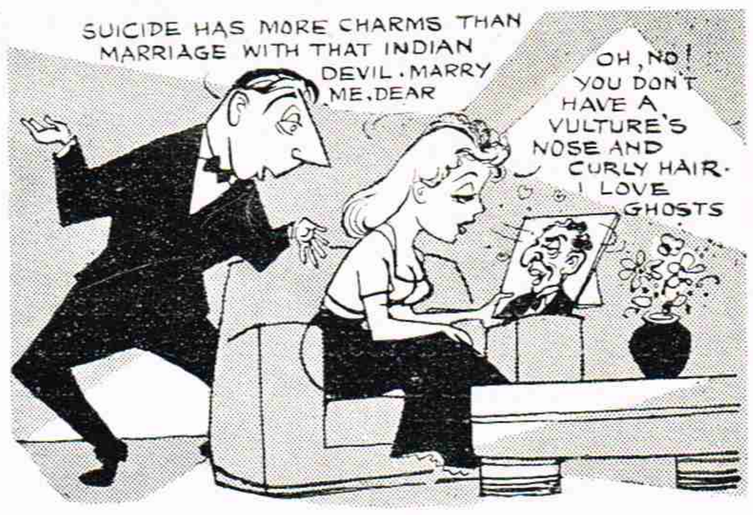
**Most of the Nehrus are in the External Affairs Ministry?**

Where do you expect professional tourists to be?

**V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)**

**If Krishna Menon marries now?**

We can't stop him. The Constitution allows one marriage. If he announces a long engagement we can save the woman by giving her a severe warning.


SUICIDE HAS MORE CHARMS THAN MARRIAGE WITH THAT INDIAN DEVIL. MARRY ME, DEAR
OH, NO! YOU DON'T HAVE A VULTURE'S NOSE AND CURLY HAIR. I LOVE GHOSTS

**If Madhubala is sent to Hollywood on a cultural delegation?**

That will be a guided missile which will return without scoring a hit.

**A. V. NARASIMHAN (Secunderabad)**

**Where am I to strike to get gold?**

The Nizam! He has the biggest gold mine in India. And it is readymade gold. No refining, no sweating.

**Is there more in Mala Sinha than meets the eye?**

Two hefty parents. They don't miss the eye?

**Is Mohana a buxom belle?**

Ah, you broke a string of my heart. What a wholesome memory that girl leaves behind whenever she goes to England!

**MRS. PRAKASH (New Delhi)**

**Who is Glubb Pasha?**

That was the British insurance agent with Jordan. The Arabs sent him back home as his premiums were very heavy.

**Please tell me something interesting about Kasturi Srinivasan?**

Srinivasan is a multi-millionaire—a man literally worth his weight in gold. He owns "The Hindu", the best newspaper in

**There is a raid in her mind—a raid that demands all her wits not to mention her character and reputation. In distress a woman travels alone. Neither man nor woman helps her. Meet Nalini Jaywant in "26th January", an inspiring social tale.**

the South and several buildings. He is fond of racing but whenever he loses ten rupees on the racecourse he gets a heart attack. He has now been made a "Padma Vidooshak".

**Meena Kumari has the face of an angel?**

So that is where the angel lost its face and got a bad reputation.

**Why are your readers so much interested in Marilyn Monroe?**

Those who cannot afford to buy the goods always like to do window-shopping.

**How rich is Seth Chandulal Shah?**

Should money also be counted when a man has everything? Chandulal is rich enough to live well, own a car, claim the utter devotion of a girl-friend, smile at life and shake hands warmly. I think Chandulal was never more rich. And God bless him!

**Gujerat produced Mahatma Gandhi, Punjab produced Lala Lajpat Rai, Bengal produced Netaji Subhash Bose, U. P. produced Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Madras produced Rajagopalachari, Maharashtra produced Lokmanya Tilak and Hyderabad produced Sarojini Naidu. What about your Bombay?**

We produced S. K. Patil, an amalgam of all those mentioned by you.

**What is the name of Karan Dewan's wife?**

Manjula! And she is sweet in words and looks.

**They say Achla Sachdev is a very enthusiastic Communist?**

And I thought she was a very enthusiastic motorist.

**America claims to have manufactured a drug that gives 'peace of mind' to those who take it. Now what do you say?**

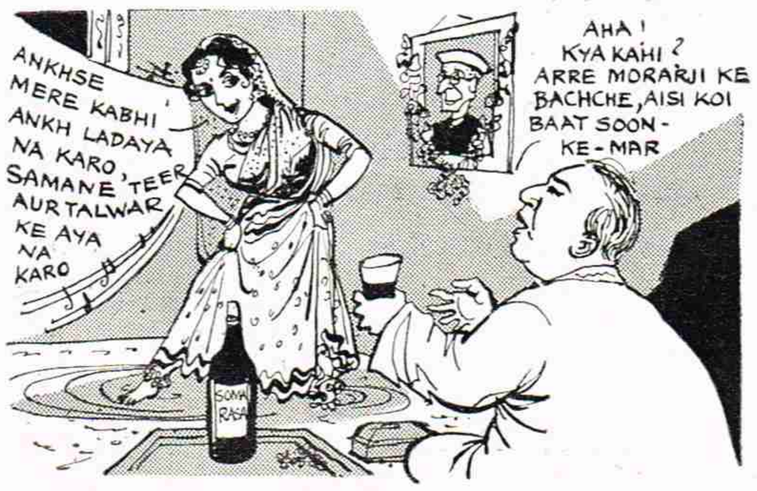
We have "Bhang" that gives all that and heaven too.

**Why do the Christians say that all of us are sinners?**

They want to be sure of customers because the Christian church is a flourishing business.

**Pandit Badri Prasad's face seems full of fatherly affection? Is he really such a good man?**

Badri Prasad is a romantic man of art, music and literature. He removes the label from a whisky bottle to call it 'Soma Rasa' and drinks it with the devotion of a Vedic Brahmin. And then he becomes dreamy and poetic. But his dreams become clouds and disappear into the sky. They never burst and rain on him.


ANKHSE MERE KABHI ANKH LADAYA NA KARO, TEER SAMANE AUR TALWAR KE AYA NA KARO
SOMA RASA
AHA! KYA KAHI? ARRE MORARJI KE BACHCHE, AISI KOI BAAT SOON-KE-MAR

**They say the Gujaratis are very timid?**

They won the battle of Bombay.

**What are the intentions of Pakistan?**

Flying the Crescent over the Red Fort.

**In some of the big hotels of New Delhi, late at night and almost daily, are seen foreign ladies dining with Sikhs. What can be the secret?**

Why don't you call them army men and let us guess the secret?

**SUNDARESAN (Calcutta)**

**Do you consider a young widow a menace to society?**

When she is beautiful. I am all for a law to throw beautiful young widows forcibly into marital beds to save them from becoming Parliamentary secretaries.

**B. L. K. MITTER (Madras)**

**What is Gandhism?**

We'll need two centuries more to define that and when it is defined ultimately it will have nothing to do with Gandhiji.

**B. VISWANATH (Madras)**

**I think you have the capacity to be a Union Minister?**

That is a capacity to be a cockroach. Is that all you think of me?

**Can you boast of having one good habit?**

I don't encourage hero-worship otherwise I would have sent you a list of my good habits.

**G. V. B. RAJA RAO (Madanapalle)**

**Morarji Desai celebrated his birthday quietly?**

Quietly? I saw over a million Gujaratis climbing the Malabar Hill that day.

**V. J. RAMAN (Thiruvaiyaru)**

**Which part of the world will you like to be born in your next birth?**

Thiruvaiyaru, Tanjore District. Strange place, isn't it?

**KAMAL K. AGARWAL (Ajmer)**

**Why doesn't Keskar marry?**

Had you seen Keskar you would not have asked this question.

**If Marilyn Monroe lands into your bedroom?**

My bedroom doesn't have a convertible top. Marilyn will have to use the staircase.

**What is ex-king Farouk doing these days?**

He has become a tourist poster for the Western countries.

**Who is the leader of Asia?**

Raj Kapoor, according to Nargis.

**MRS. MADHARI SHAH (Almora)**

**Is Shreemati Indira Gandhi really a great orator?**

She is all right for children's gatherings.

*Crying . . . restless . . . unhappy baby!*
*The poor mother was a nervous wreck trying to pacify him—no sleep at night for her—no rest during the day.*

*At last, she sought the advice of those of her friends who had happy healthy babies. They all* strongly *recommended* '*Glaxo*'.

*And so she began to give her baby* '*Glaxo*', *the pure nourishing milk-food to which Vitamin D has been added to build strong bones and teeth and iron to enrich the blood.*

*Look at him now! He's all smiles! happy because he's healthy and well-nourished —thanks to* '*Glaxo*'.

★

For a free copy of The Glaxo Baby Book send 8 annas in stamps (to cover postage) to 'Glaxo', Dept. No. G, Worli, Bombay 18.

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THE PUREST MILK-FOOD FOR BABIES

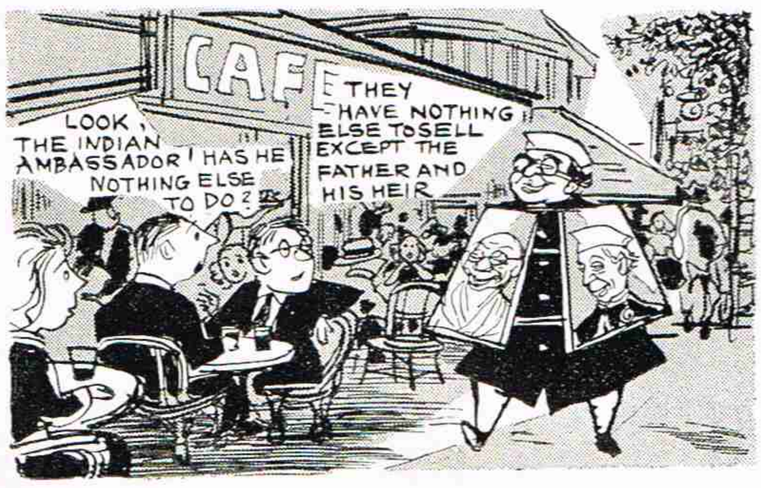
G. 15

**Soil is all the destiny of the farmer. If it is wet the farmer smiles, if it dries the farmer cries. The dry sod is a cause for worry and prayer. Watch Raj Kumar and Nargis bringing home the truth of this in "Mother India", the colour classic produced and directed by Mehboob.**

**P. S. GOEL (Meerut)**

**What is the plan of Nehru to ensure a constant supply of white caps?**

Opening new embassies in unknown lands. Nehru wants a white-capped sandwich-man to be seen in every little town of the world.




**B. SUBBAO RAO (Bombay)**

**I am prepared to marry one-fourth of Meena?**

All her parts are married.

**Does Naina have only eyes and nothing else?**

She has a mother that stares too.

**How do you feel when a woman invites you to meet her again?**

I am not used to invitations from women. My women have to wait for me whether they like it or not.

**How do Marwaris manage to be so full of lust on a vegetarian diet?**

They eat their minds. The human mind has all the hormones a man requires for his needs in bed. And the mind needs money as its tonic which the Marwaris have in plenty.

**How do you measure a woman's energy?**

There are many modern meters like running, shopping, ballroom dancing, etc. The old motherhood exercises are not in fashion now.

**Who is the greater woman-hater between you and Morarji Desai?**

We both love women. I love those in my home. Morarji's field is bigger being the Chief Minister.

**Are you thinking of starting any ghee business?**

You need a crooked finger for that business. I don't have one.

**Do you recognize and admire a bigger rogue when you meet one?**

Even that way self-realization is worth having.

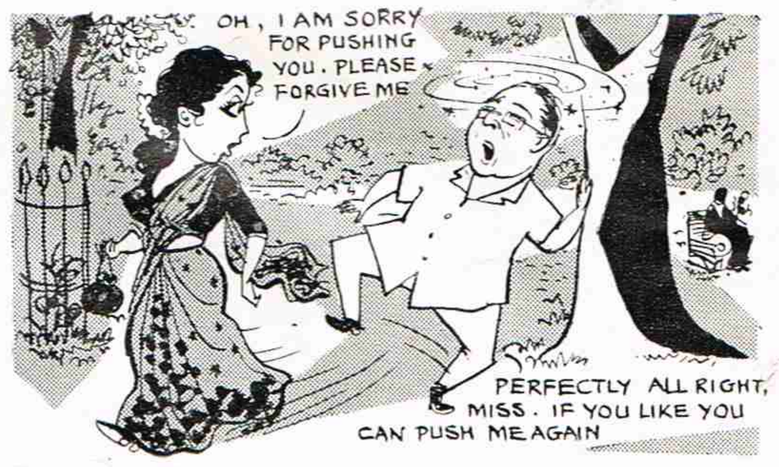
**You have a great brain, Baburao. Why don't you use it properly?**

Did you use yours properly in calling me a rogue?

**S. J. KAMATH (Bombay)**

**Do you want to go somewhere far away?**

No. I want to be on the scene and not miss a single accident.




**J. N. SAHAI (Dehra Dun)**

**Imagine people celebrating marriages playing music such as, "Quismat phuti" and "Teri duniyan men jeene se to marjana hi behtar hai"!**

I actually heard these tunes at a Punjabi wedding I attended recently. The Punjabis didn't know the words. They just walked to the tunes.

**JIWAT C. MOORJANI (Poona)**

**Why can't Raj Kapoor be on good terms with you?**

Raj is on excellent terms with me. Don't start wrong rumours.

**Dr. Radhakrishnan has received invitations from fourteen countries?**

Freedom brought him a good harvest.

**The Shah of Iran described Bombay as the most beautiful city in the world?**

He didn't see the Irani shops.

**If I flatter Sardar Chandulal Shah?**

Don't waste your talent on an empty purse.

**P. D. JAIN (Ajmer)**

**Is Kamini Kaushal lucky?**

Yes, she is in the news without being in the pictures. She even "won" a popularity award for her performance in a picture that did not become popular.

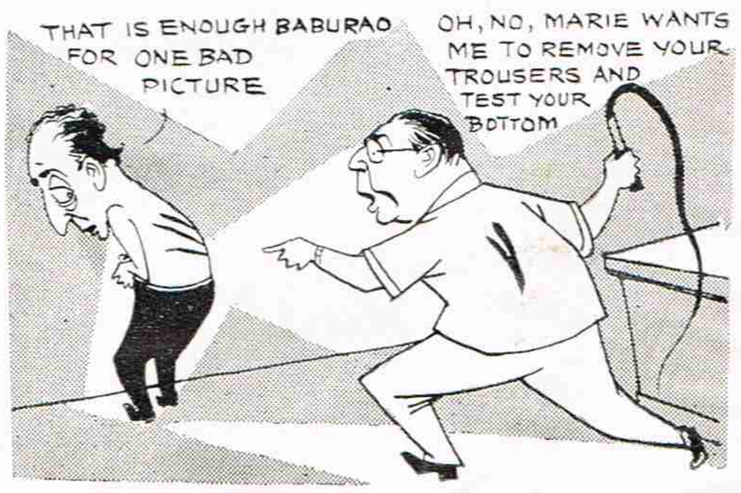
**Is "filmindia" going to be popular in Russia some day?**

It is already very popular. Khrushchev took quotes from "filmindia" when condemning Stalin.

**MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)**

**"There has not been any severe standard of film criticism in India", said Marie Seton. Has she read "filmindia"?**

She has but she has also seen Indian pictures. Marie probably thinks that I have been too sympathetic in my reviews.



**What is a brainwave?**

Bhoodan! It found another saint in the old mine.

**Why does not Nehru stand by his word?**

Which word? He gives two for every one that we expect.

**Is Keskar Dada indispensable?**

Sherpas are not dismissed between the camps. At the next camp Keskar will be paid off.

**What is Nehru's view on matrimony?**

Only a bird's-eye view!

**B. T. PURANIK (Bombay)**

**Are you leading a double life?**

That is right. I spend the daylight in baking my bread and the rest of the hours in wondering why.

**MRS. SUHASINI PANDIT (Hubli)**

**What is the secret of Ashok Kumar looking so young at this age?**

His wife Shobha. She looks as if she is not yet married. And they say she has four children. It is the wife that decides the age and appearance of the husband.

**D. J. JHALA (Saigon)**

**I have no news of Dalmia?**

The Government seem to be ashamed of their unholy hurry in arresting him.

**What would have been Sardar Patel's views on Goa?**

Only weekend views! That man never liked anything too long.

**What is your religion?**

I have no religion. Religion shrinks a man's world, separates him from others and creates conflicts in his mind. I like freedom of the mind without the shackles of any dogma or belief preached by others.

**BHUBAN P. POUDYAL (Kathmandu)**

**What should one do if he woke up in the morning to find himself dead?**

Do dead people wake up in the morning in Nepal? I always thought it to be a spooky country.

**A. V. LIKHITE (Chanda)**

**Is the Prince of Monaco handsome?**

Princes are never handsome. This Monaco man will make our Grace unhappy.

**SHIVA S. AGNIHOTRI (Kanpur)**

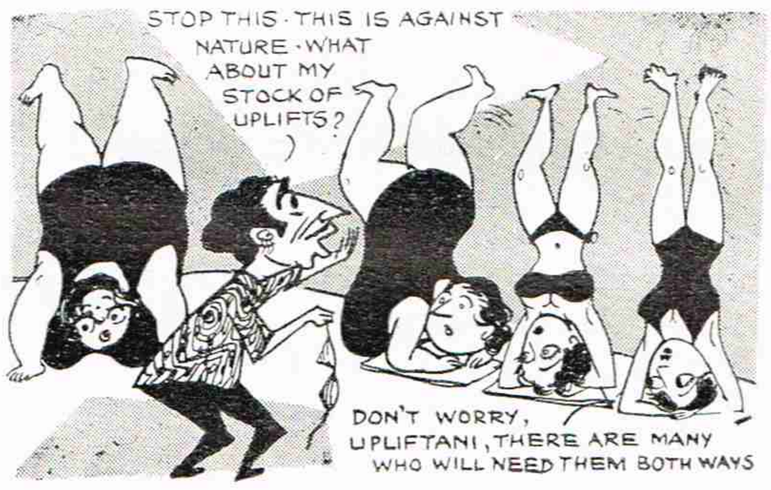
**What shall we do with the 40 million Muslims of India?**

That is not the question. The question is: What are these 40 million Muslims of India going to do with us? Last time they cut our arms.

**B. L. K. MITTER (Madras)**

**Should women do shirshasan?**

It is worth trying. If it reverses the law of gravitation, we won't need so many uplift gadgets.


STOP THIS · THIS IS AGAINST NATURE · WHAT ABOUT MY STOCK OF UPLIFTS?
DON'T WORRY, UPLIFTANI, THERE ARE MANY WHO WILL NEED THEM BOTH WAYS

**Thank God, they have not put a white cap on His head?**

Haven't they? You should have seen some of the Ganpatis last year. They looked like Morarji's bodyguards.

**MISS C. CHANDRAMANI (Bombay)**

**What is the height of Rajabhai Tower?**

It has the stature of death if you decide to come down the wrong way.

**MISS SATINDER SEKHON (Mukhtsar)**

**Have you ever been haunted by the C.I.D.?**

I haunt the policemen and teach them a few rhumba steps.

**MRS. T. S. SAMEER (Colombo)**

**What are the traits of a snob?**

Watch Nehru. You can make a long list.

**SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)**

**What is a mannequin?**

That is wealth of figure with poverty of dresses.

**How to see the Invisible?**

Stop the mind and in its stillness you will see God.

**PRADEEP L. TANNA (Bombay)**

**Can a girl be kissed a hundred times without running a risk?**

If a man can kiss 99 times without any damage a thousand times won't make any difference to him. But there are people who explode with the first kiss.

**DERRICK N. BAILEY (Meerut)**

**Why don't people count their own vices?**

Why should you when you have counting machines in the neighbourhood?

**Have you any Sundays in your calendar of 365 days?**

Very sick days are Sundays.

**Did Nargis, Madhubala and Nimmi get any inspiration from Geeta Bali's marriage?**

They got the inspiration but no one to waste his perspiration.

**MISS P. M. BAILEY (Dehra Dun)**

**Future of a typist?**

My first job was that of a typist on Rs. 40 a month.

**Is there any advantage of getting married to a widower with half-a-dozen children?**

That is an orphanage superintendent's job with a sleeping partner thrown in.

**You say that Jesus Christ will come to settle the quarrels between the nuns and the monks. You are definitely wrong. It is the Christian belief and the Bible teaches us that God will come to restore peace and happiness and judge the good and bad and reward them accordingly. Your comment?**

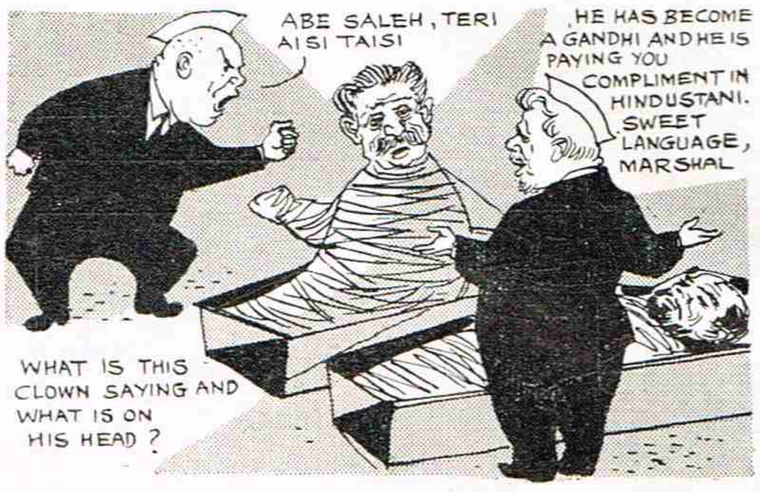
So God is Father Christmas too! Will He bring His rewards in Christmas stockings and will He come down the chimney?

**Youth is a season of ladders, ladders that lead to the castles in the air which young girls build with dreamy eyes. Here is one more dreamy-eyed one, Nutan, as she appears in "Baarish", an exciting social romance.**

**MRS. SUSHEELA SHIRSEKAR (Bombay)**

**Bulganin and Khrushchev under the Gandhi cap?**

They went back and started slandering Stalin. I knew it would unhinge them and I had warned Khrushchev in advance.


ABE SALEH, TERI AISI TAISI
HE HAS BECOME A GANDHI AND HE IS PAYING YOU COMPLIMENT IN HINDUSTANI. SWEET LANGUAGE, MARSHAL
WHAT IS THIS CLOWN SAYING AND WHAT IS ON HIS HEAD ?

**Was Gandhiji a puzzle to you?**

Not at all. An honest man is never a puzzle to anyone.

**F. CAUSSY (Mauritius)**

**Since last year I am a diabetic. Is life still worth living?**

You are calling even a disease your own. What has man to do with a disease? At the most disease will destroy the body—the temporary shell that covers a man—but the man never dies with the body. Life begins when you separate the two—body and the man. Diabetes is not such a killer as you imagine. Stop being afraid of it, you will feel better in a minute.

**KEWAL NACHNANI (Poona)**

**Who is the best preacher in India?**

A film producer. He tickles you and tells the tale.

**MRS. VIJAYA SUBRAMANYAM (Madras)**

**Are you a perfect lover?**

Perfection depends on the requirements of the other party. I supply the demands.

**B. APPA RAO (Khargpur)**

**Is Sohrab Modi not very great?**

Yes, it is difficult to get a cap to fit him.

**PREM C. SINHA (Ajmer)**

**Mr. Patel, I want to be a sanyasi?**

The business is fascinating. It is completely tax free. Get yourself attached to a temple so that you can have a vault to keep your savings.

**Pakistan has started testing U.S. arms against India. What should we do now?**

Stand on your head and recite the five principles of the Panchsheela.

**M. R. HARIHARAN (Bombay)**

**In Morarji's raj, dead bodies are found in the city's water supply?**

Prohibition has made people so religious that wherever they see water now they see the Ganga in it.

**R. BHASKARAN (Bangalore)**

**What is India?**

Panchsheela picnic land.

**Does Jagdish Sethi remember you?**

Yes, but when a Punjabi remembers you one of your dead ancestors also comes to life.

**Kripalani dreams of C.I.D.'s. Why?**

He doesn't dream, he sees them. Old Kripalani has no imagination at all. He has to see everything to believe anything.

**How did Israel come into existence?**

Nations are born in the cradles of cupidity. Israel has a glorious destiny. It will always keep the crescent in shape and never let it wax.

**If a baby begins to talk from inside the womb?**

The Ceylon Radio will requisition its services for selling some baby food.

**How to become a lover of snakes?**

Rani Kaviratne of Bangalore knows the secret: She thinks snakes to be safer than men.

**For serving cheap food to Nehru a Madhya Bharat estate officer was sacked?**

He should have been whipped in addition. A man who doesn't know his responsibilities doesn't deserve any sympathy.

**Third class in railways to be named as second class. Why?**

Improvement without investment! That is the essence of our Five-Year Plan.




**Chief Minister B. C. Roy diagnoses only rich people. Why?**

Only the rich have disease, the poor die of starvation.

**Deshmukh increased tax on soap. Why?**

He doesn't need soap now.

**Do film stars carry first aid box?**

Film stars use lips for first aid.

**Suppose Nehru gets an attack of rheumatism?**

That he has already. Otherwise why would Krishna Menon use a thick walking stick?

**High Court judges consult astrologers. Why?**

They think astrologers own the Supreme Court.

**JOGINDER SINGH (Delhi)**

**Why is religion losing its power over the minds of modern people?**

Count the wars which several religions have caused and ask yourself whether religions which result in murder and intolerance deserve any following.

**KRISHNAN A. PATNA (Madras)**

**I am poor. I cannot afford to buy "filmindia" and you insist on fixing priority coupons with the questions. What to do ?**

A man who can afford to indulge in the luxury of a wife and two children cannot be called poor. You seem to be a typical Brahmin mendicant used to enjoying all things free.

**Tamilians want the pujas in the temple to be done in Tamil ?**

There is a lot of wisdom in that demand. Prayer that is understood has a greater effect on the human mind.

**N. S. R. SUBBAN CHETTY (Pannaikkadu)**

**If you were in place of Group Captain Peter Townsend ?**

Margaret would be in "Girnar".

**K. B. LALL (Barwani)**

**Do you know that our Union Government consists of very competent persons ?**

I know but they are as invisible as God.

**What is the secret ambition of Joachim Alva ?**

Joachim's secret ambition is now a matter of public mourning. They won't make him a minister. The jackasses!

**Why doesn't Chandulal become a sadhu?**

Sadhus are not called "seths" and Chandulal wants to be called a 'seth'.

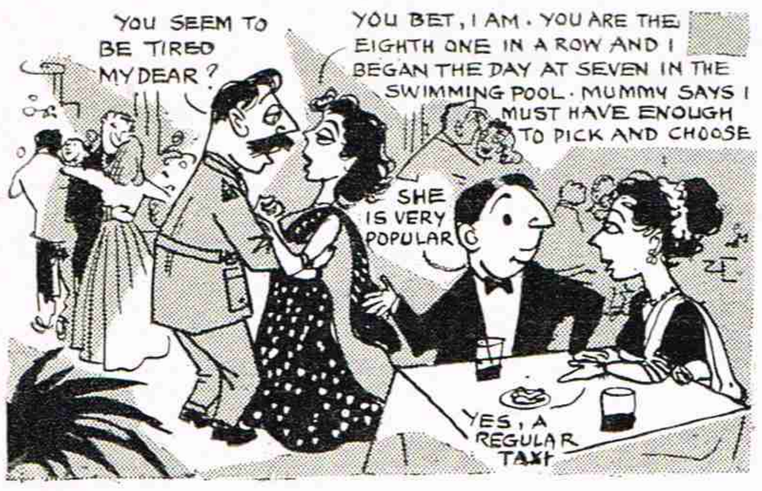
**Is Lohia a juggler ?**

Yes, but he doesn't collect a crowd. Juggler without a crowd is art without any customers.

**K. S. JABADE (Poona)**

**If the dating system starts in Bombay ?**

We gave that up years ago. Bombay is a city of speed. We have no patience for calendar dates. We observe the clocking system which gives a girl several chances in a single day.


YOU SEEM TO BE TIRED MY DEAR ?
YOU BET, I AM. YOU ARE THE EIGHTH ONE IN A ROW AND I BEGAN THE DAY AT SEVEN IN THE SWIMMING POOL. MUMMY SAYS I MUST HAVE ENOUGH TO PICK AND CHOOSE
SHE IS VERY POPULAR
YES, A REGULAR TAXI

**In what way do brassieres help ?**

They give a woman a high opinion of herself.

**If Dr. Ambedkar sees Buddha in a dream?**

Ambedkar doesn't believe in ancient ghosts.

**G. NAYAK (Kotapad)**

**If Krishna Menon becomes a sanyasi?**

That is merely refrigeration. His girl friends don't have to call themselves widows.

**Are there snakes in China ?**

Not now! They solved the food problem of the Chinese.

**S. J. KAMATH (Bombay)**

**Why is a certain type of climate called bracing ?**

Because it shrinks the brassiere by a couple of sizes.

**T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)**

**Who is this Sivananda ?**

He is a wholesale dealer in virtue.

**Who is this Golwalkar ?**

That is a beard celebrating its 51st year.

**V. N. SARIN (Meerut)**

**English has done good to India. How?**

English brought books of freedom into the country. The books we had before were scriptures that described only the various slaveries of man.

**K. A. KRISHNA RAO (Bombay)**

**Is romance the privilege of teenagers only? Around forty, I tend to become romantic! Do you think I stand any chance?**

Of course, you do! At 52, I succeed in raising a flutter in quite a few chicken hearts. What has romance to do with age? It needs only a heart and a heart has only death—no age.

**R. PADMANABHA RAO (Chandragiri)**

**Our young friends hate Dr. B. V. Keskar, the Information and Broadcasting Minister?**

Our old friends also do that. Keskar is unanimously popular.

**MRS. VAGAL CHHAYA (Bombay)**

**What is life?**

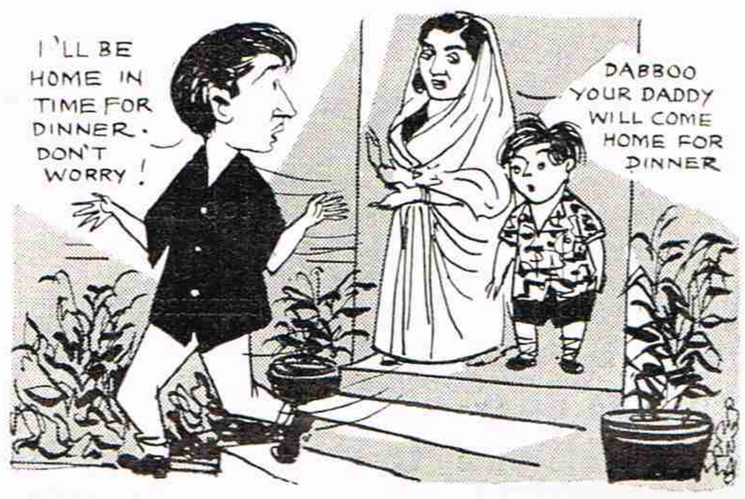
Life is a science that extracts art out of sin.

**If Morarji Desai happens to see a tiger?**

He won't have constipation for a month.

**What is a standing question?**

A silent wife.




**V. SEEVARATNAM (Badulla)**

**Has Sumitra Devi left filmdom?**

Not yet but they say she might join the Tatas as a director.

**You appreciate all religions?**

There is little to appreciate in religions. They are all boringly uniform.

**MISS VIJAYA PATIL (Bombay)**

**What is your most precious possession?**

My bad reputation. Rob me of it and you rob me of a good living. The world pays me to live up to its expectations.

**KESHARINATH CHAUDHARY (Poona)**

**Where is Nargis' altar?**

Her bed is her altar.

**Do you envy Tata and Birla?**

Poor fellows! They are prisoners of their wealth. I love to remain poor and free.

**Were you one of the distinguished guests at the Clare Awards function?**

No! Distinguished guests have to perform. I don't have to. I am given a ringside seat to watch the performance.

**Usha Kiran has put on too much fat?**

Yes, she scared the people away from "Aawaz", her latest picture.

**T. G. OSCAR (Madras)**

**What do you think of Bertrand Russell?**

A good brainsmith turning out new thought.

**Did you ever write a poem?**

I kidnapped one.

**M. G. SOMAN (Amravati)**

**If people begin to say 'Mahatma Nehru'?**

Motilal Nehru will return to earth in a volcanic temper and pull out the tongues of all who say that. He doesn't want a Mahatma in his family.

**What is a skirt?**

That is some superfluous cloth worn over knickers by some old-fashioned women.

**Why is Earl Mountbatten visiting India?**

FAMOUS
JEWEL'S
Perfumed
CASTOR OIL
IN NEW BOTTLE
Jewel Perfumed Castor Oil, the symbol of perfect hair oil, has ever been the choice of those discerning persons who respect quality. It will now be yet more welcome in beautiful new bottle.
JEWEL OF INDIA PERFUME COMPANY CALCUTTA-34.
For lustrous hair & lovely look.
For a well-groomed new look.

Girls often waste the passion of youth in biting the ends of their clothes. It soothes them and helps them to think. See Nutan bringing a new youthful passion to the screen in "Baarish", a social tale of love.

---

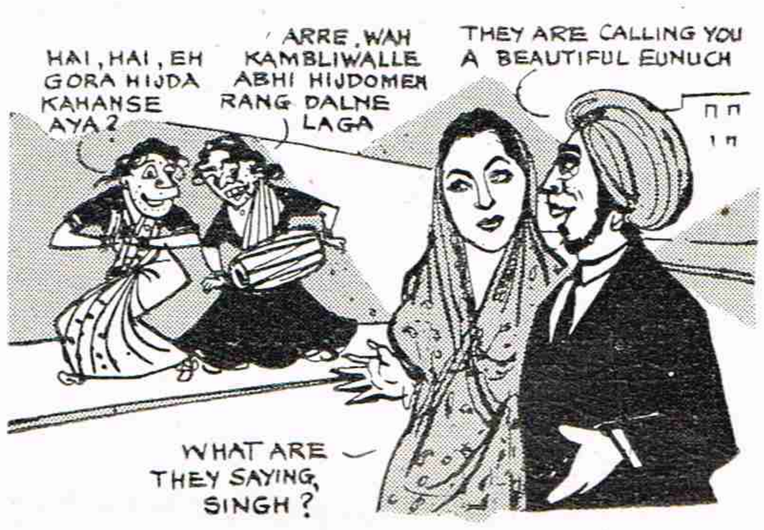
A criminal often returns to the scene of his crime.

**A Gandhi is born among Alabama's Negroes?**

Wherever there is oppression there will be a Gandhi born. That guy is going to be "sambhawami yuge yuge" whether we like it or not. And he will be born in many colours and climes.

**Ava Gardner in an Indian sari! Doesn't she look awkward?**

She looks like a 'hijda'. Not till Ava wore a sari did I realize that the sari needed a soft and modest woman's face and not just any face to look beautiful.


HAI, HAI, EH GORA HIJDA KAHANSE AYA?
ARRE, WAH KAMBLIWALLE ABHI HIJDOMEN RANG DALNE LAGA
THEY ARE CALLING YOU A BEAUTIFUL EUNUCH
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING, SINGH?

**What will happen if your financial position remains the same for ever?**

My present financial position is a deposition. If the same is to continue, Government will get only criticism as tax.

**Why does Nalini Jaywant love dogs?**

She has had enough of men.

**What is wrong with a Maharashtrian?**

Too self-conscious and too much conscience.

**Where do you spend your summer?**

In my office room.

**Do you believe in Hinduism?**

Not in the type preserved by the temples.

**What does Krishna think of Nargis?**

A woman shares her cracker only when she likes another woman. She doesn't mind if the trinket inside goes into the other's hand for a while.

**Is Guru Dutt adventurous?**

Yes, but his work has still to acquire character to get the man some recognition. Guru Dutt threatens to remain an adventurer all his life.

**Hard work alone will bring money?**

Who told you that fairy tale? What hard work did Mrs. Dhanti Devi Chaturvedi, who recently got £50,000 in the Irish Sweepstakes, do? Money needs luck. Hard work is useful sometimes in wooing luck.

**How do you feel now that one fifty has passed?**

I feel relieved at the idea that I don't have to pass another fifty. Every day brings more relief.

**Were you born in a royal family?**

Yes. All Banjaras are royal. Earth is their home and sky their roof. They use the sun in their workshops and the moon in their bedrooms. The rivers are their swimming pools and almost everything between the earth and the sky is their food. How many royal families enjoy these bounties?

**What do you think of the alarming exodus from East Pakistan?**

I like it. Hindus have no business to live in a country which has now been openly declared as an Islamic Republic. Muslim countries are meant only for Muslims and not for others.

**PRITHI PAL (Amritsar)**

**I can't decide if I love or like you?**

That is the Sikh in you—always confused noon or night.

**Is Jesus Christ coming again?**

No. He was defamed enough the first time he visited us. Jesus was a wise man and a wise man doesn't make the same mistake twice.

**Since lie has been created, there must be some use for it?**

The world makes crutches from lies to support truth and get it going.

**Should the bodies of great men be preserved?**

Stalin's body is now useful. The Russians can see it and aim their abuse at it. The dead body always makes a crime more dramatic.

**I feel that I am getting moulded into your thoughts. Good or bad?**

Bad! I don't want you to think with my brain. Once I have teased a thought in you, I expect your machinery to work. The human mind must be completely free from all influence if it is expected to do real creative thinking.

**Is the conquest of Everest a British bluff?**

It looked like a Coronation gift to the Queen.

**A. RAMDAS (Nellore)**

**Why did Humayan Kabir quit the Ministry of Education?**

He lost one father and will now get another. Humayun is being adopted by Pandit Nehru for politics.

HUMAYUN IS WEARING JINNAH CAP, MAULANA?
THAT IS THE CAP OF CREATION, PANDITJI. IN A SECULAR STATE YOU MUST NOT LOOK A GIFT-HORSE IN THE MOUTH

**BHARAT B. SHARMA** (Nagpur)

**What is Dilip Kumar's hobby?**

Prowling.

**S. K. BHATTACHARJEE** (Hazaribagh)

**I pay double for your—or is it ours—"filmindia"—Rs. 3|- cash and six days without lunch at college. Is it wise?**

Yes. You will get back double out of "filmindia". At the recent Union Public Service Commission examination, all the "filmindia" readers passed and got their posts.

**S. S. MAHAJANI** (Bombay)

**I am a tea addict. What about you, sir?**

I am a work addict, sir. My life depends on this addiction.

**KHURSHED UL HAQ** (Lucknow)

**Are not Indian actresses cunning and heartless beauties?**

They are as cunning and heartless as other women. But they are not beauties.

**C. RAMESH** (Bombay)

**You give out too much of truth at times?**

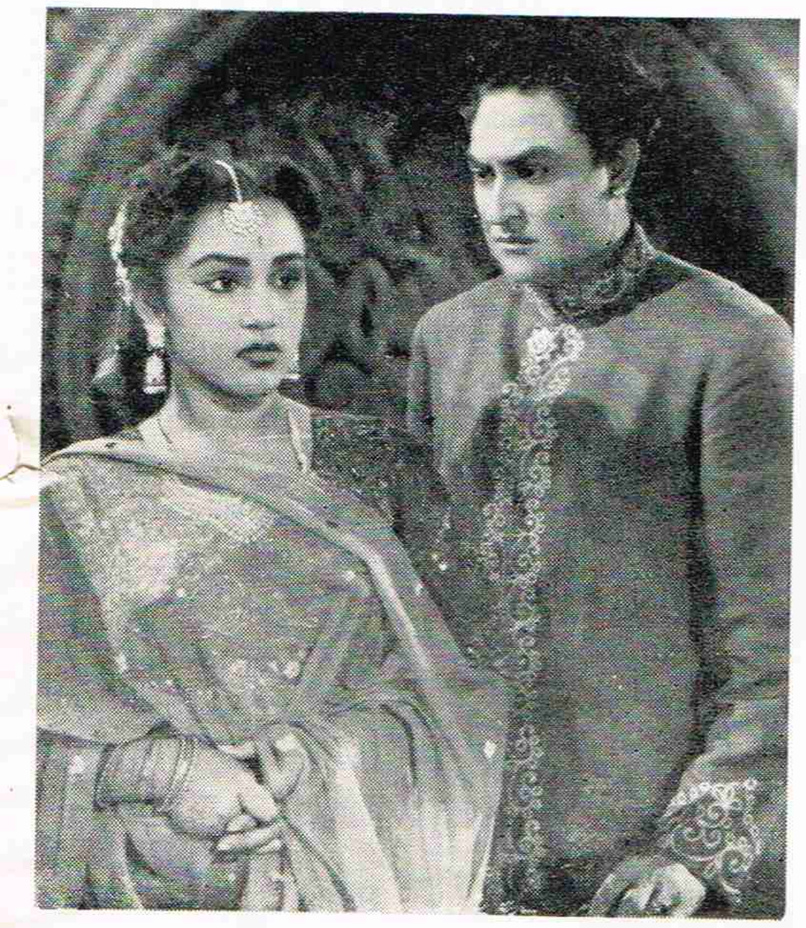
I cannot help. The accumulation is rather fast and I have to save myself by getting rid of the stock.

**If loafers become ministers?**

They stop being loafers and become travellers and earn travelling allowance.

**Sikhs say that they'll finish off Pakistan if Nehru permits them?**

Pakistanis cut the Sikh beards last time. The beards seem to have grown again.



**Ashok Kumar gets a new chicken every time. Here is Ameeta, a "noo" one, giving Ashok a glorious chase in "Talaash", a social tale directed by Vishram Bedekar.**

**The other woman always gets the best of an elderly man who has stopped feeling the difference at home. But man often punctuates his life with other women to give a longer lease to his own home life—to turn it into an occasional luxury instead of a daily necessity. Watch Ashok Kumar selling age to youth in "Bhai Bhai", a social romance produced by A. V. Meiyappan Chettiar.**

**MISS MANIK BHANDARE** (Bombay)

**What memorial should we readers of "filmindia" construct after your death?**

You are not helping me when I am living. Who wants your sighs after I am gone?

**Are Punjabis more honest than Sindhis?**

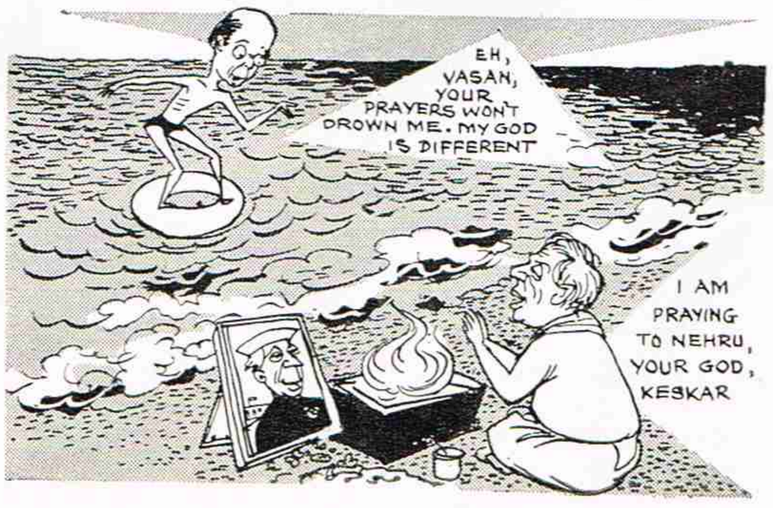
Punjabis get spasms of honesty, Sindhis have cold sweats sometimes.

**Why is Prince Aly Khan still after actresses?**

He seems to be a "jari-purana" merchant—a favourite business with Muslims.

**What exercise will you suggest for Dr. Keskar?**

Swimming in the sea. Producers will pray on the shore.




**R. DASIAH** (Bangalore)

**Why have Anglo-Indian girls suddenly cultivated a fancy for saris?**

Food has a different colour now and they have to match the colour when they dress for dinner.

**A. R. RAMJEE** (Calcutta)

**Do you spend some of your time listening to others?**

Yes, I do. And I save time by never arguing.

**P. G. WANJALKAR** (Nagpur)

**God is blind, deaf and dumb?**

Isn't that good? Had he seen, heard and talked, the Stalins and Hitlers would have shot him dead. In the world of men, God has to live wisely and humbly.

**KANHAIYALAL CHOWDHARY** (Rangoon)

**Role of India in the event of a third world war?**

We shall carry tales from one party to another.

**PREM C. SINHA** (Arrah)

**Where will Dhebarbhai end?**

**Nutan is a fine piece of womanhood—so far at least—and Dev Anand just knows it in "Baarish", a "noo" love tale played by two.**

Candles don't burn long and they end in a mess.

**What did you get for that wonderful review of "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje"?**

A scowl from Shantaram! He thought I wanted a share of his profits.

**V. SWAMINATH (Madras)**

**Will Dilip Kumar become a saint?**

Dilip is a tiger—a woman-eater. Saints live on vegetables. Vegetables will kill Dilip.

**Is vasectomy safe and effective and without bad reaction?**

Absolutely safe and no reaction! Now take all your friends and get them insulated. It is better to prevent clerks than see them struggling and starving.

**K. K. HUSSAIN (Kurnool)**

**Is Marilyn Monroe worth dreaming about?**

I don't like her nose. The rest can make a dream.

**PREM N. MEHRA (Delhi)**

**Can two wrongs make a right?**

Nehru and Krishna Menon make one foreign policy. Don't they?

**When does one learn politics?**

When one meets a couple of drunken Punjabis. And the learning has to be pretty quick.

**J. B. WILLIAM (Bangalore)**

**What does the hydrogen bomb symbolise?**

Fear — fear of seeing the monster in man.

**DAMODAR PRASAD (Khargpur)**

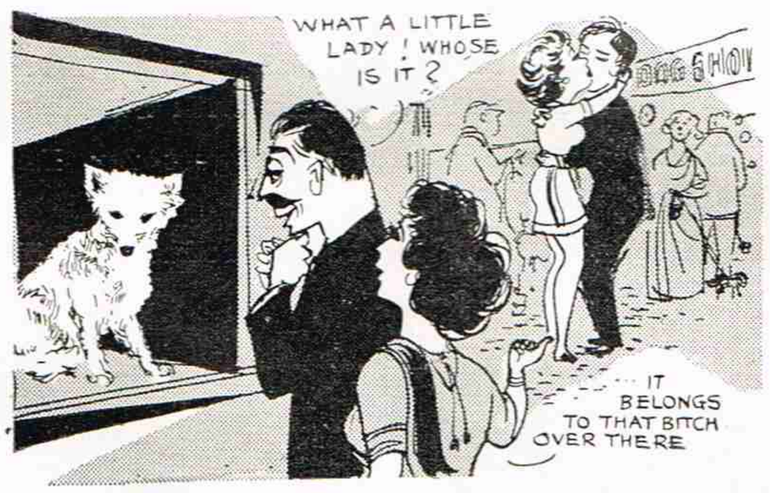
**Man makes society or society makes a man?**

Man begins the work of building a society, society finishes the job by building the man. Society is like the mausoleums which the Moghul kings built for their dead bodies.

**B. M. MALHOTRA (New Delhi)**

**What is the difference between a dog show and a beauty contest?**

In a dog show bitches are called ladies. In a beauty contest ladies are called bitches.




**SATYA PRAKASH (Meerut)**

**My girl friend wants to kiss me. What should I do?**

You can't stop those who are bent on committing suicide.

**Name how many actresses are still left unmarried?**

Film actresses are usually manned and not married. To them the man is more important than the marriage.

**OBED C. DAS (Cuttack)**

**These days you are praising Raj Kapoor. What is the matter?**

And Nargis quarrelled with me the other day saying that I never praise Raj.

**MOHAN R. HARJANI (Surabaya)**

**When will Shakila be married?**

She is waiting for the formation of Mahagujarat.

**N. K. JOSHI (New Delhi)**

**What do the recent raids of Pakistan on our frontiers, east and west, signify?**

Nothing much! They are only testing our Panchsheela with American weapons.

**IMMANUEL SOANS (Mulki)**

**Are Maharashtrians charitable?**

They never have a surplus.

**P. V. R. SYAMALA RAO (Bhojudih)**

**Is Nigar Sultana a good dancer?**

Nigar has no patience for unnecessary leg-work.

**MRS. PRAKASH (New Delhi)**

**We have no radio, no refrigerator, no car, no servant in our house. Aren't we poor and unlucky?**

I have all those you miss and I am worse off.

**What is Pakistani's chief worry these days?**

To make Nehru understand the English language correctly. They think Nehru doesn't know the correct meaning of the word "plebiscite".

**How much income tax does Khwaja Ahmed Abbas pay?**

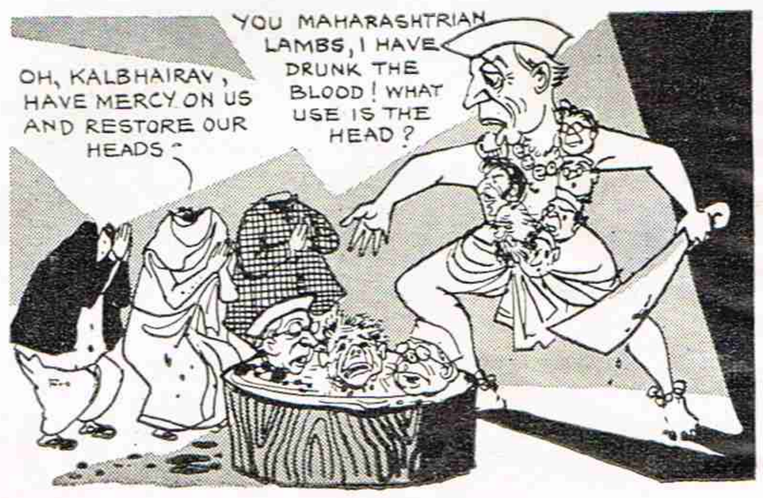
Abbas pays income tax in Soviet Russia.

**Are you convinced of Gulzarilal Nanda's ability?**

No. I think a very small man is put on a very big job and therefore our Five Year Plans must fail.

**We don't hear any news about those great leaders of ours — Acharya Kripalani, Babu Purshottam Das Tandon, Jayaprakash Narayan, etc.?**

Kali's lambs don't bleat after their heads are cut off.



**K. RAMACHANDRAN (Coimbatore)**

**A moustache will suit you well. Why not grow one?**

Isn't one Dhebar enough? Do you want one more in the private sector?

**SURAJ P. KAPUR (Nangal)**

**My colleagues think me to be a gentleman?**

If the pose is paying don't disillusion them. The world always pays well for misunderstanding people.

**K. M. RAO (Calcutta)**

**Is Sood an engineer?**

Yes, he engineers.

**Do Congressmen leave footmarks?**

Only hoof-marks.

**If I chase your daughter?**

You will get all my sympathy at the end of the chase.

**Can Golwalkar bite?**

He is getting a new set of teeth now.

**K. SUBRAYAN (Madras)**

**Tendulkar said that if you met Jawaharlalji you might dance with joy. Why don't you try?**

Doctors say that dancing is not good for my heart.

**D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Guntur)**

**Freedom of speech in Russia?**

Aren't they abusing Stalin these days?

**KULTAR (Kanpur)**

**Why doesn't Nehru like the word 'Pandit' before his name?**

It reminds him of all the professional crooks of Kashmir.

**V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)**

**Mr. R. K. Karanjia meets governors, ministers, Nehru, Chou En Lai, Bulganin, etc. But you don't even like to talk to them. Don't you like to attain popularity that way?**

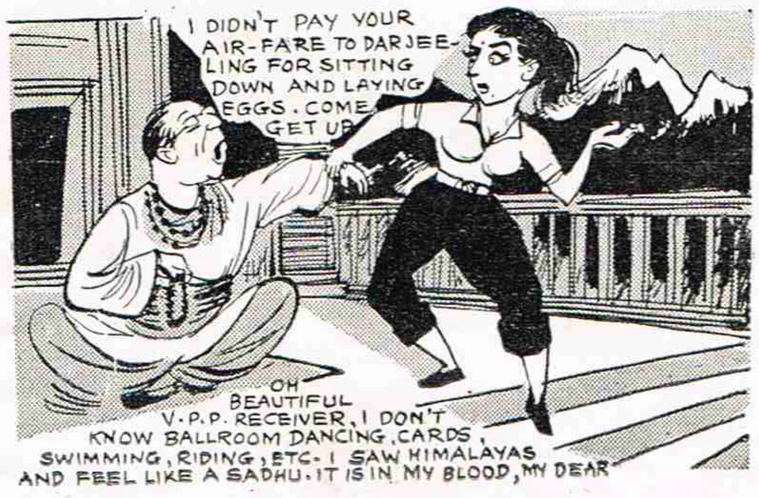
Russi is a big game hunter. I am a small fry. I don't like to embarrass people by intruding upon them unnecessarily.

**If A. R. Kardar declares himself that he is the most sincere and the best fellow in the film circle?**

He has done that many times. No one believes him.

**Are you a personality belonging to V.I.P. or V.V.I.P.?**

I am a V.P.P. Whoever wants me pays for me first and then opens the parcel.


I DIDN'T PAY YOUR AIR-FARE TO DARJEELING FOR SITTING DOWN AND LAYING EGGS. COME GET UP
OH BEAUTIFUL V.P.P. RECEIVER, I DON'T KNOW BALLROOM DANCING, CARDS, SWIMMING, RIDING, ETC. I SAW HIMALAYAS AND FEEL LIKE A SADHU. IT IS IN MY BLOOD, MY DEAR

**T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)**

**Is there Allah in Kashmir?**

They have started growing one now. When sufficiently grown you'll hear "Allah-ho-Akbar".

**How can I get Padma Vibhushan?**

If Kasturi Srinivasan can get it, why not you?

**Does Morarji Desai hit below the belt?**

Nehru says Morarji did so when he misguided Nehru about Maharashtrians in Bombay.

**Why do you believe in rebirth?**

How else can you finish all income tax cases?

**Can philosophy be sold?**

What is Dr. Radhakrishnan doing? You can buy it on instalment purchase plan.

**If Morarji Desai loses Chief Ministership of Bombay?**

Morarji is one of our permanent civil servants. He will be transferred to the centre.

**Why does Kamini Kaushal wear high-heeled shoes?**

She believes in Bata stature.

**Do you pity me?**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now within reach of all

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**MANGO PICKLE (HOT)**
The pride of Maharashtra, superb
in taste and flavour

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A universal appetizer and digestive
of rare quality

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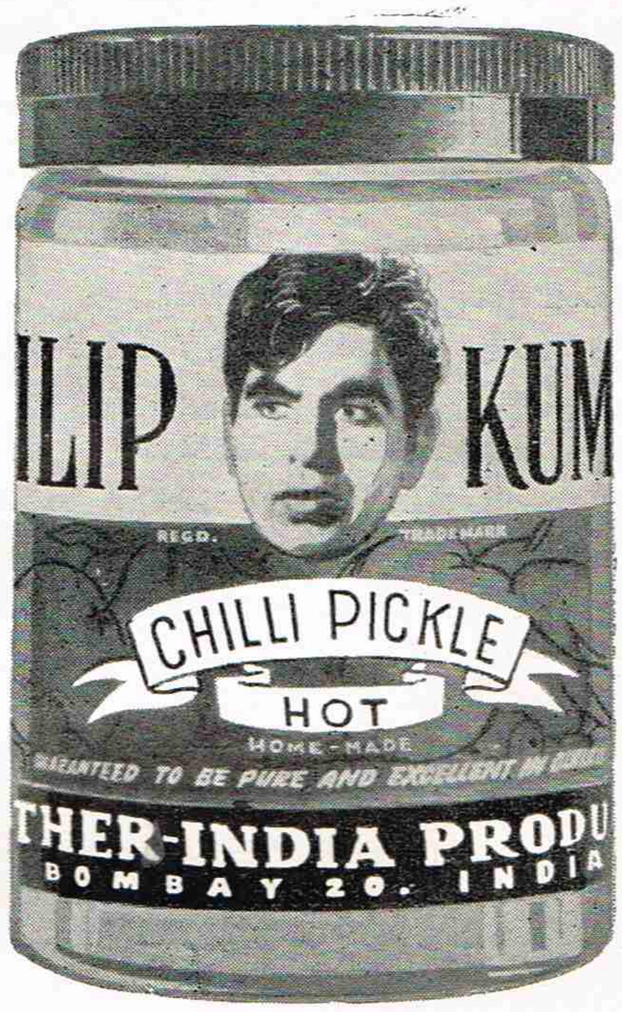
Gives an extra edge to the tongue
with a never-to-be-forgotten flavour

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**Whiskey gives an extra edge to a man's passion and woman is often its very first victim. For woman and wine are rivals who hate each other and one never loses a chance to condemn the other. Nimmi faces Ashok Kumar and whiskey in "Bhai Bhai", a social theme.**

You are slightly crazy. So is Morarji.

**RAJ A. CHHUGANI** (Jullundur)

**I don't see any skirts here?**

The legs are important, not the wrapper.

**I saw Filmistan's "Heer" but am still alive. Are you not surprised?**

It will take many 'Heers' to kill a Sindhi.

**Is Khan Sahib of Pakistan a gentleman politician?**

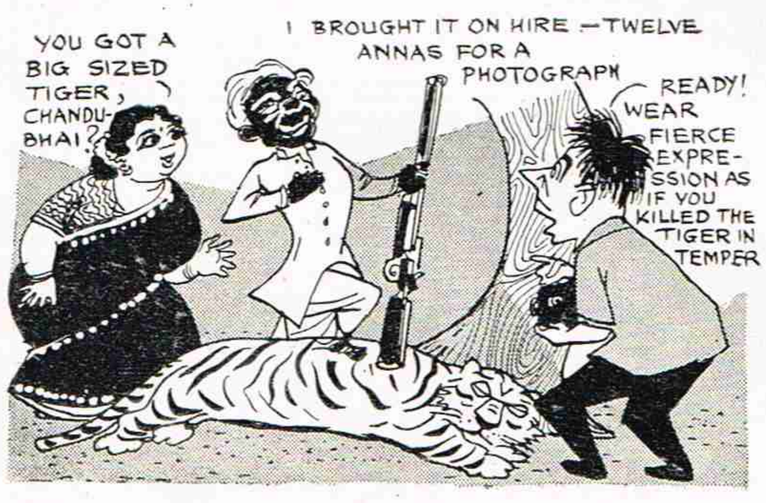
Khan Sahib? Pakistan? Gentleman? Politician? You are mixing up things rather badly, Raj.

**What is missing in Marilyn Monroe?**

Her calendar needs a frame. I think Sir Laurence Olivier will now supply it.

**If Chandulal Shah is given a gun?**

He will have to buy a stuffed tiger to complete the photograph.


YOU GOT A BIG SIZED TIGER, CHANDU-BHAI?
I BROUGHT IT ON HIRE — TWELVE ANNAS FOR A PHOTOGRAPH
READY! WEAR FIERCE EXPRESSION AS IF YOU KILLED THE TIGER IN TEMPER

**Maharashtrians say Gujaratis are blood-suckers?**

And Gujaratis say Maharashtrians have no blood. So who sucks whom and what?

**Are J. B. Mangharam's biscuits nourishing?**

I have eaten only Sathe's biscuits made in Poona and I found them delightful.

**How old is Shantaram now?**

Fifty-four.

**N. J. KESWANI** (Jullundur)

**Is winking a crime in your Bombay?**

Not if you do it behind the goggles.

**If I propose to Nadira?**

If Nadira accepts, there would be one Sindhi less in the world.

**J. S. THAMBY RAJAH** (Batticaloa)

**I always remember you in my daily prayers?**

You are a good man. Tell Him to collect the stuff quickly.

**B. T. PURANIK** (Bombay)

**An authority on ballroom dancing says, "Ballroom dancing gives much physical exercise and provides mental relaxation which is necessary to physical health". Any comment?**

Does it do all that when the woman in the arms is one's own wife? Find that out.

**ZAFAR AJMERI** (Bombay)

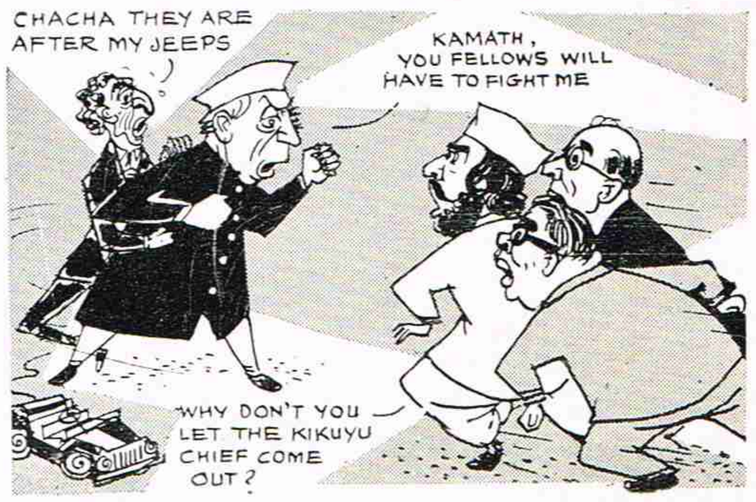
**What is your opinion about the Islamic Constitution of Pakistan?**

It is a seed of strife which will be watered with blood. Muslims are prisoners of religion and therefore slaves of a belief. They will never build an empire of freedom.

**MRS. PRAKASH** (New Delhi)

**What is a godfather?**

That is a wingless angel who protects you from yourself.




**F. K. PATIL** (Dharwar)

**Describe the modern choli?**

Choli is a piece of cloth that hits the eye in various sizes and shapes.

**Not a single picture of Madhubala has become a box-office hit. What does she lack?**

She lacks sincerity of emotion! Madhubala is a mechanical actress. She never feels her roles.

**One thing exciting about the Muslims is that when they get angry they give their women a whipping treat. A whip makes a woman very intelligent and she quickly understands the most complex male problems. See how pretty Kammo is reacting to a whip in "Sheikh Chilli", an exciting romantic adventure produced by Pandit Indra and directed by Ramchandra Thakur.**

**P. D. JAIN (Ajmer)**

**Imagine Keskar in the form of a sadhu?**

Quite possible! His father is in that business.

**What do you say of the people who call you names?**

Abuse is a warm and passionate way of taking interest in people. It is a flattering method of admiring people but it is very exhausting.

**K. V. R. PATRO (Khargpur)**

**Can the blind have dreams? What sort of dreams are they?**

The blind don't borrow colour from the world. Their dreams have the hues of divinity.

**JAL P. VACHHA (Bombay)**

**Alas! Your critical but truthful review of "Bhagam Bhag" was too late to save my precious time and money. I was tempted to see this most nonsensical Bhagwan stupidity after reading its reviews in the 'Times of India' and 'Filmfare'. Won't you open a school for film critics to teach them the true art of criticism?**

When I can't teach you patience how can I make critics intelligent?

**G. A. HAMID (Kurnool)**

**How do they use water in the Aarey Milk Colony?**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by

**BABURAO PATEL**

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**Lips, the symbols of voluptuousness, often describe the maiden. Full lips, say the sages, demand sensuous gratification in a full measure. Lips provide the index to a woman's character. Let us see what character Vyjayantimala reveals in "Anjaan", a romantic tale produced by P. N. Arora.**

As they cannot use it for washing milk they wash the buffaloes with it.

**Should tears be wasted over the dead?**

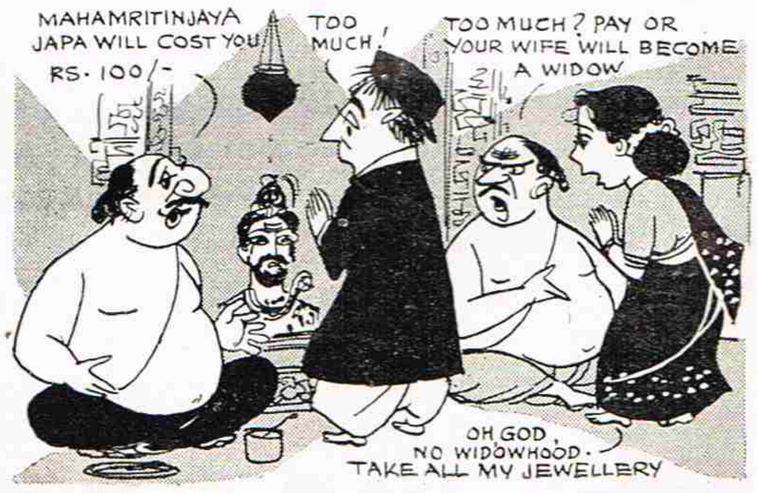
A few tears can be graciously offered. The dead don't ask too often.

**Do you know anything about Meher Baba?**

He is the wisest man in the world. He never speaks and airs his ignorance. Silence has made him a saint.

**Can religion be sold?**

In temples and churches they weigh it and sell it to maintain the standard of prices.


MAHAMRITINJAYA JAPA WILL COST YOU RS. 100/-
TOO MUCH!
TOO MUCH? PAY OR YOUR WIFE WILL BECOME A WIDOW
OH GOD, NO WIDOWHOOD. TAKE ALL MY JEWELLERY

**What is your opinion about H. V. Kamath?**

Intelligent but a bit crazy!

**How to test the loyalty of an Anglo-Indian girl?**

That is a rash experiment. Remember, a bad bush is better than an open field.

**K. A. Abbas says he is ashamed of Bombay city?**

The blushes of Muslims are important in a secular state.

**H. MADHAVAN (Taveuni)**

**What is Nirupa Roy's complexion like?**

Nirupa has a very kissable complexion.

**HOSHANG BAPUNA (Raigarh)**

**If Shri Baburao Patel is elected the Chief Minister of the proposed Samyukta Maharashtra?**

Ten years later they won't need a clumsy riot to claim Bombay.

**HARIRAM JUGAT (Ajmer)**

**Where has Sushila Rani Patel gone these days?**

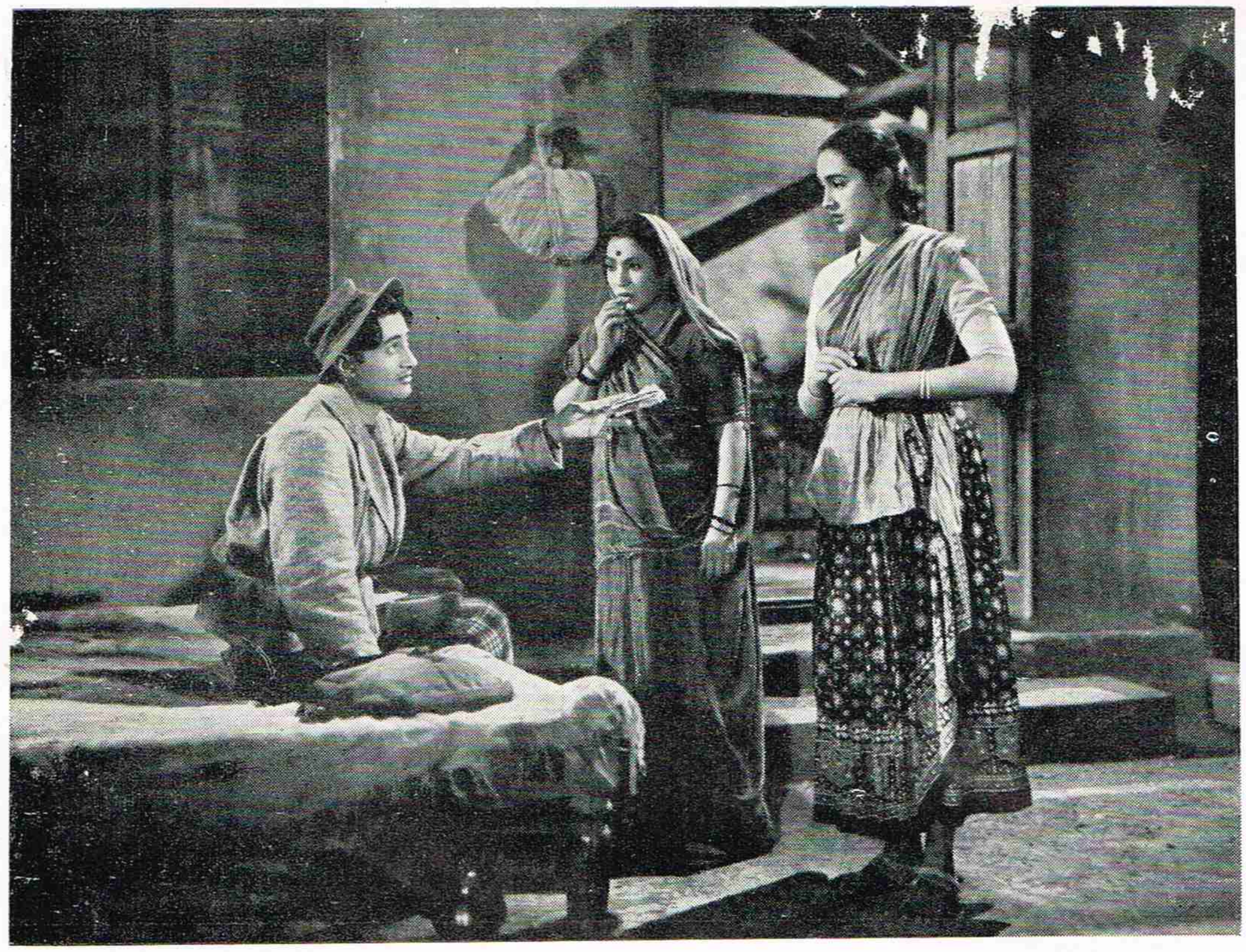
She is busy editing the book, "Burning Words". It is a big, fat book which will take quite a lot of hard and intelligent work.

**From Delhi jaundice has spread as far as Madras. What does it show?**

That Madrasis don't know the difference between disease and culture. They take everything home from the North.

**K. P. MALAVIA (Bombay)**

**What does S. K. Patil do for a living?**



**Money surprises all because it is always unexpected and often comes from unexpected quarters. Dev Anand, though he looks a tramp, believes in paying for his board and lodging and who wouldn't to return again to Nutan in "Baarish"?**

Patil is a professional politician and belongs to the ruling party.

**S. T. ARASAN (Madras)**

**What will Mrs. V. Ramanathan do if Brooke Bond also starts advertising in "filmindia"?**

Her husband, T. A. Ramanathan, can be filled with Brooke Bond.

**Is heaven an invention or a discovery?**

It is neither. Heaven is a rainbow of the human mind.

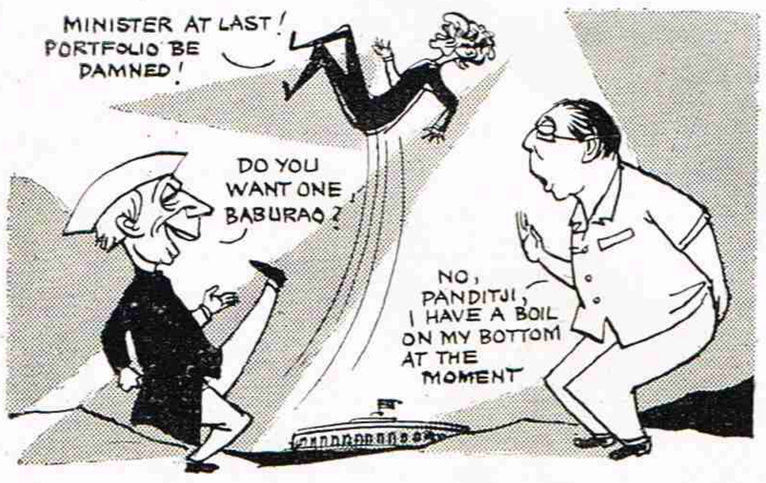
**Describe Raj Kapoor in one word?**

Self-starter!

**C. RAMESH (Bombay)**

**"You have to raise people from the bottom up", says Pandit Nehru?**

One way is to use their own bottoms.




**MADHAV MENON (Tripunithura)**

**Nargis in "Miss India" and "Mother India"?**

The girl is thorough. She believes in ending what she begins.

**B. N. SHARMA (Lucknow)**

**Why are girls more intelligent than boys?**

They have something to lose.

**Nowadays Muslims also wear khaddar and Gandhi cap?**

Muslims always wear the court dress.

**History repeats itself?**

Find me another Nehru in the history of man.

**S. N. UPADHYA (Khargpur)**

**I pray for your long life, sir?**

Why? I have never done you any harm.

**Where does Morarji have his hair cut?**

In his own hair cutting saloon. He stands before his mirror and gets going. Morarji is a self-starter in many things.

**One of my Anglo-Indian friends feeds his wife six times in a day?**

Impossible! An Anglo-Indian who would do that is not born yet.

**Why does Birla use "Hind" for everything he manufactures?**

Gandhiji gave him the sole agency of that word as a reward for various services rendered to the Congress.

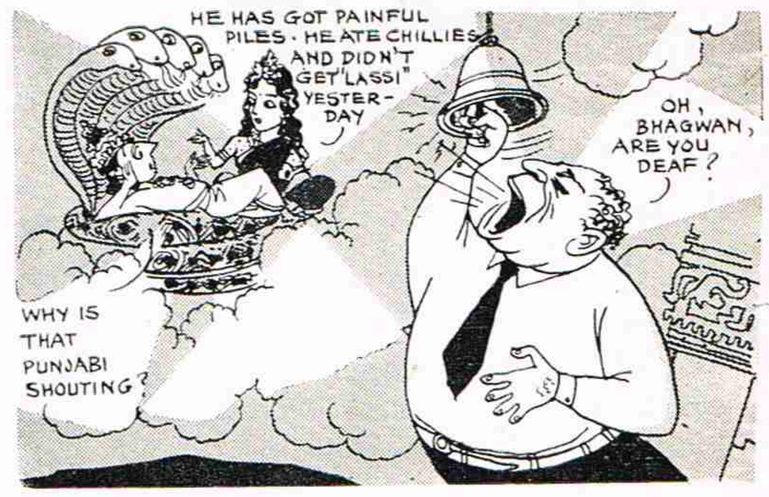
**JAGDISH SAMBRANI (Bombay)**

**Who pays the entertainment tax—we or the producers?**

You pay the tax but the producers feel hurt.

**Why does a Punjabi pray loudly?**

To impress his neighbours that he knows God personally.


HE HAS GOT PAINFUL PILES · HE ATE CHILLIES AND DIDN'T GET 'LASSI" YESTER-DAY
OH, BHAGWAN, ARE YOU DEAF?
WHY IS THAT PUNJABI SHOUTING?

**MANOHAR M. (Simla)**

**What is a bald truth?**

Nehru, the Prime Minister.

**Molotov is out of news these days?**

He is being groomed for oblivion.

**MISS SUSHMA (Mainpuri)**

**If Pakistan suddenly invades India?**

Nehru and Krishna Menon will immediately fly to the U.N.O. Invasion of India is an international problem which we must not handle on a national level.

**Who is Defence Minister of India?**

God. Who else can defend a country without arms?

**I wish you were the Planning Minister of India?**

The rogues can't work under me. If I cannot shoot them I'll poison them but I won't let the swines swallow people's money.

**Air has no shape?**

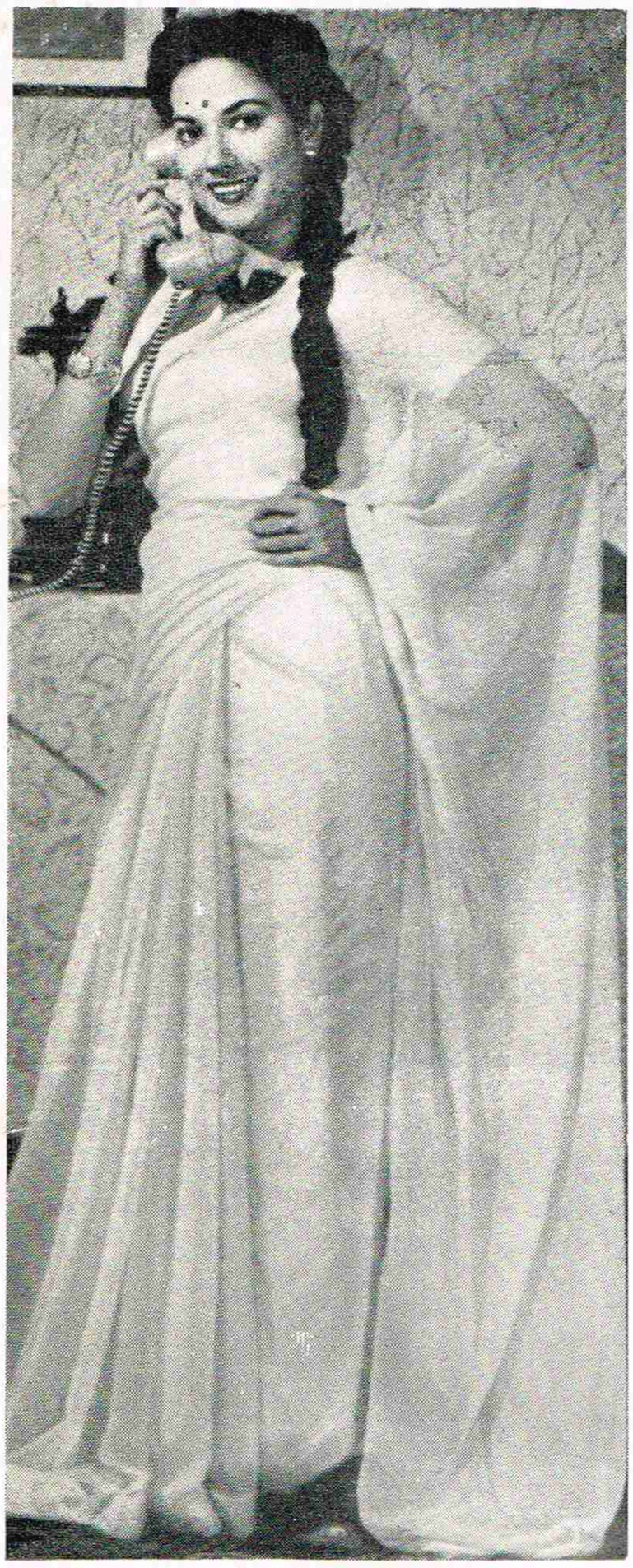
Then what is Krishna Menon?

**VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)**

**How does Kedar Sharma spend his days now?**

**PRIZE WINNERS FOR MAY**

1st Prize to Mrs. Prakash (New Delhi); 2nd Prize to M. G. Soman (Amravati); 3rd Prize to V. L. Narayana (Howrah); 4th Prize to B.L.K. Mitter (Madras) and 10 consolation prizes to the following:—Prithi Paul (Amritsar); S. N. Upadhya (Khargpur); F. K. Patil (Dharwar); Prem N. Mehra (Delhi); V. Swaminath (Madras); G. Nayak (Kotapad); A. Ramdas (Nellore); Bhuban P. Poudyal (Kathmandu); Sundaresan (Calcutta) and B. Viswanath (Madras). Money orders and copies are being sent to all the prize winners.



**The telephone is a new device for raising blood pressure from long distance. It can keep the man and the woman in constant heat though for cooling purposes the distance has to be annihilated. Shakila is turning the heat on someone. If you want to know on whom, see "Begunah", a social theme.**

---

He has a home with wife and children. Good artists don't rely on a travelling kit all the time.

**How is Abbas related to Blitz ?**

Ahmed Abbas and Russi Karanjia are partners in crime—propaganda for Communism.

**B. M. MALHOTRA (New Delhi)**

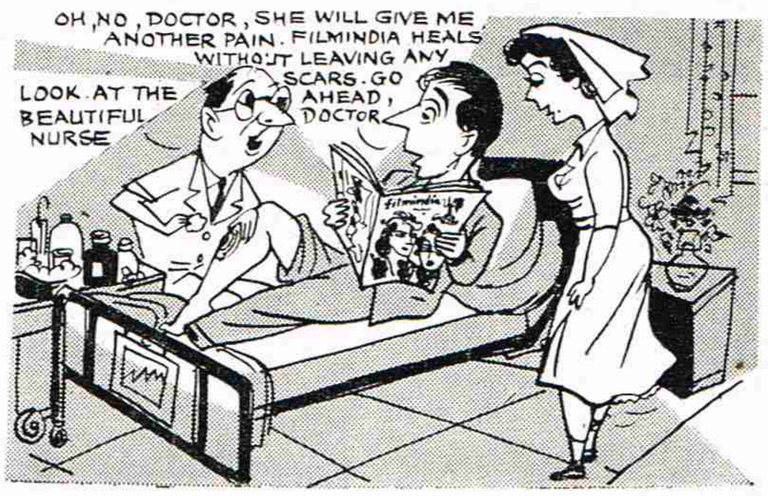
**The Finance Minister of Vindhya Pradesh sold 5000 copies of his own photo at Rs. 5|- each?**

Not at all a bad face value.

**ROHINI V. (Ma[illegible])**

**A friend of mine took her copy of "filmindia" even to the operation theatre ?**

Humour soothes and makes you forget pain. In the south some modern hospitals give the patients latest copies of "filmindia" to read and thus accelerate healing.


OH, NO, DOCTOR, SHE WILL GIVE ME ANOTHER PAIN. FILMINDIA HEALS WITHOUT LEAVING ANY SCARS. GO AHEAD, DOCTOR
LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL NURSE

**MISS G. V. MANGALA DEVI (Madras)**

**Is Sood a rich man?**

With his wife making lakhs how can a husband be poor?

**RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)**

**Has Krishna Kapoor a tongue?**

When she had one she was unhappy.

**A. V. NARASIMHAN (Secunderabad)**

**Can a woman with a sleeveless blouse have anything up her sleeves?**

She can still have some superfluity in the armpits.

**H. RANGANATH RAO (Belgaum)**

**How can I have a loving interest in my work without being forced to display a hypocritical smile?**

Your handwriting reveals a weak physical frame and a timid mind. Milk and suryanamaskars should fill the body. Allow J. Krishnamurthi to overhaul the mind. Read his book, "The First And Last Freedom".

**B. BHAWANKHEL (Bikaner)**

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan is a true Pakistani. Isn't he?**

Which Muslim is not a true Pakistani?

**MRS. K. RAMA BAI (Shimoga)**

**"Burning Words" by Shri Baburao Patel if ordered now costs only Rs. 8|- instead of Rs. 12|8|-. Why?**

I have no money to print the book and I am asking my readers to help me to print it. Why should honesty provoke 'why' ?

**HEMCHANDRA PATIL (Koppal)**

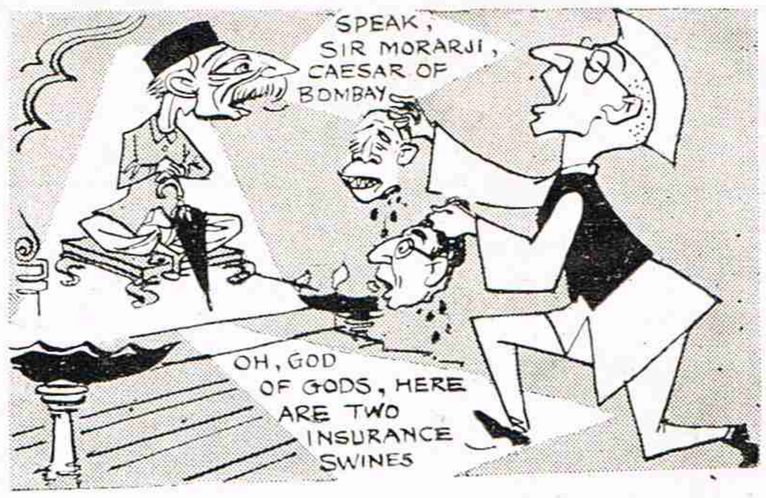
**Babs, will you accept my humble gifts if I send them?**

Don't forget to pay the railway freight.

**D. SATYARAJ (Mysore)**

**Please say something about the common man?**

That is the god of all politicians. His blessings make Caesars.

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The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of one copy of "Grey Dust", each worth Rs. 10|-.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order while the copies of "Grey Dust" will be sent by registered post.

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CUT HERE MAY 1956

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## JOHNSTON, A BUMPTIOUS PEDLAR

Mr. Eric Johnston, the Grand Moghul of the American movies, visited India during the last week of March on a "fact finding mission", the gentle American expression for spying and sabotage in trade.

On behalf of the Indian film industry, S. S. Vasan, M. B. Billimoria and B. D. Bharucha received Eric Johnston at the Santa Cruz airport with their characteristic inferiority complex and slavish smiles and expectations. The Film Federation of India spent over Rs. 5000/- —part of the fund that was collected for the Silver Jubilee celebration of the talkies—on a dinner to Eric Johnston. The dinner gave an opportunity to Johnston to indulge in some cheeky talk about peace, politics, ethics, freedom of the press, etc—of course, the oversimplified American notions of all these.

Johnston is a fluent speaker of the soap-box variety usually seen and heard in the Hyde Park of London or in the Central Park of New York. He has the cheap dramatic technique of an evangelist wedded to the hollow words of a hypocrite. His words make noise because they are not sincere.

What did the Film Federation of India gain by giving a 5000-rupee dinner to Eric Johnston?

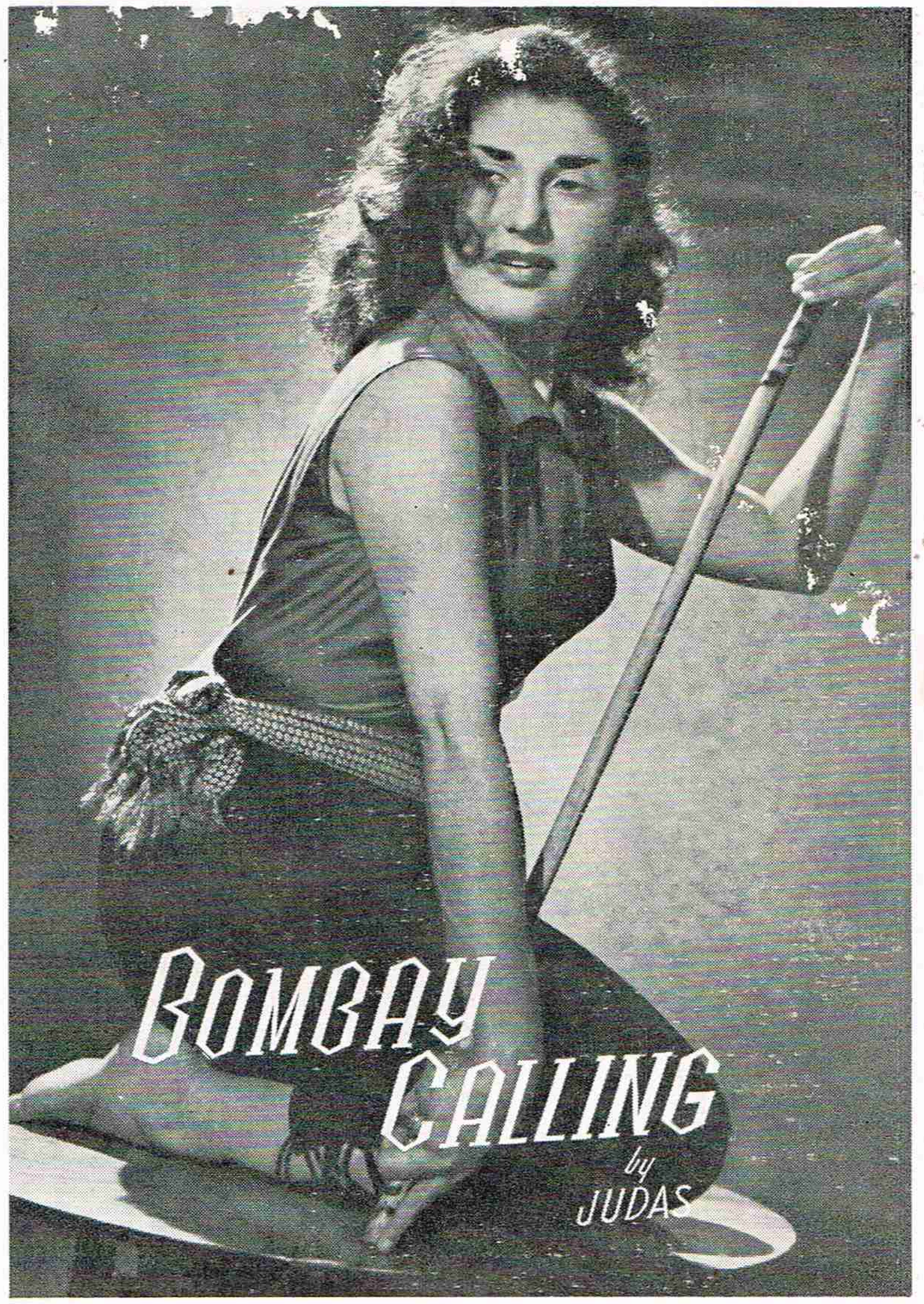
Nothing! Nothing at all! On the contrary in overdoing our hospitality we lost something—the pride of a nation fighting to come up in the dawn of its freedom. And while losing that we encouraged a bumptious American to give us some patronizing talk on peace, politics, ethics, art, culture, etc.

Eric Johnston had not come to India to buy Indian pictures for the American market but to sell more American pictures to the Indian market. Johnston is a paid salesman of Hollywood producers. His job is to create and expand markets for Hollywood pictures and not to take home pictures of other countries in competition to his own. On the other hand he tries his damnedest best to keep foreign pictures out of the American market.

Eric Johnston had another specific purpose for visiting India. And that purpose was "Filmindia". He wanted to stop this magazine from campaigning against Hollywood films with sex, crime and violence. Johnston knows too well that Filmindia's campaign against Hollywood had resulted in 128 Hollywood pictures being totally banned (a loss of over 6 million dollars) and hundreds of others being badly slashed by the Indian censors.

And because Eric Johnston was a big man—as Vasan told our film folks at the 5000-rupee dinner—Johnston wanted to see none else than Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, to "fix this matter about censorship".

But before Johnston flew to Delhi to "fix the matter" he told us that the world has shrunk due to jet planes (a fact which we did not know till the great Eric told us) and while it was very easy in olden days to get along with




**Here is someone who makes the stick look curved and crooked. Strangely enough Shammi's heart hasn't as many curves as the body has. This charming artiste adds excitement to "Lalten", a social theme of Harish Productions.**

somebody as he was far away, it was very difficult now to get along seeing that jet planes had moved the man into your bedroom.

That was truth. Though it was not exactly a jet plane, it was an American plane which brought Eric Johnston right into our bedroom. He had come to find out what we were doing in our bedroom with his pictures. As Eric himself said it was very difficult for us to get along with Eric now that he was standing in our bedroom and using the room to his own benefit without giving us even a glimpse of how his streamlined bedroom looks like.

And what Eric Johnston, the Grand Moghul of the American movies, is doing in India, he has been doing all over the world. He has been using the bedrooms of all nations without allowing anyone to get into his bedroom.

When someone asked him why Indian pictures are not shown in America, he said the American market was a free market and that anyone could come and sell his films

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TO SMILE
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there. He said that Indian films will be readily accepted in America if the right effort is made.

That is a damn lie. The first picture which India sent to America was "The Court Dancer". That was in 1941. We sent many pictures after that. Not one has been shown yet on a national scale in America. Does Eric Johnston mean to say that Indian producers did not put in the right effort all these years to show their pictures in America?

And assuming that Indians did not know what is the right effort, did at least a British organization like J. Arthur Rank put in the right effort to show British pictures in America? Or did it not?

The Rank Organization of Britain had to expose Johnston's my-bedroom-for-me-and-your-bedroom-also-for-me scandal by giving a full-page advertisement in the New York Times International and Financial Review telling the American picturegoers directly of the dirty tricks of the American film producers and exhibitors who in various ways refused to give playing time to even the best British pictures.

When asked about this at a press conference in Bombay, Eric Johnston accused the J. Arthur Rank Organization of carrying on a "lying, unfair and erroneous propaganda" against the American film trade.

We think Eric Johnston is himself lying—damn lying. We think Eric Johnston is himself unfair—damn unfair. We think Eric Johnston is himself doing erroneous propaganda—damn erroneous propaganda.

Johnston says "art houses" were available for screening British films. "Art houses" to which Johnston refers are like the small cinemas in our railway institutes or tea plantations, usually situated in the poor and obscure parts of a city and with a capacity of 300 to 500 seats. These "art houses" play pictures for three or four days. These "art houses" are found only in big cities of America and not in the small towns.

Johnston offers these "art houses" to his white cousins from England—a country from which he takes annually nearly 30% of the total income of American films.

If the British producers cannot show their pictures in America what chance have the Indian producers? That is the question Vasan should have answered before sanctioning Rs. 5000/- for the Johnston dinner.

Johnston, who required the goodwill of Indians to sell his pictures, should have himself given a dinner to the Indians. Our Indian producers completely misunderstood Johnston's purpose and themselves spent Rs. 5000/- in giving him a dinner. That is how Indians mix up things and call it hospitality.

Johnston's talk of ethics and moral values in life and motion pictures amused us a lot seeing that it came from the representative of a trade that has poisoned the world with its films on sex, crime and violence, merely to make some easy profits.

Johnston had the impudence to say that in America

**Some women are born with a dignity which gives them a rare sex-appeal. Veena comes to the screen after a long time in "Halaku", a Mongolian adventure tale.**

film producers strictly adhered to their moral code and during the last 10 years only two films offended this moral code.

Our censors have so far banned 128 Hollywood films completely on grounds of their being filthy, immoral and anti-social. The difference between Johnston's 2 and our censors' 128 is 126—a big difference. Does that difference describe the gulf that exists between our moral code and the moral code of American producers ?

When talking in India, Eric Johnston, the bumptious American, forgot that he was talking to an ancient people whose country and culture gave the world its cradle of civilization.

All that Johnston talked in India shows that he is only a cheap pedlar of films and as such was not worth a 5000-rupee dinner.

Americans will show Indian pictures in America only when American pictures are completely banned in India. Let our Vasans, Bharuchas and Billimorias agitate for this total ban instead of switching on slavish smiles at visiting American pedlars.

**OUR RAM-RAHIM MINISTRIES**

The unholy rivalry between our Hindu Ministry of Information and our Muslim Ministry of Education seems to have now begun to take our shame and disgrace to lands beyond the seas. And the woman who seems to be distinguishing herself in this is someone by the name of Miss S. Rehman who is someone in the Muslim Ministry of Education.

We have been hearing many complaints about Miss S. Rehman for quite some time. People have called her crude, proud, rude, arrogant, inefficient and what not. People also said that she got more smiles from Mr. A. Hussein, the Jt. Secretary of the Ministry, than others who deserved them better. But we took these reports as gossip which those who really do some good and useful work often enjoy through sheer malice of those that envy successful people, especially in New Delhi. We never believed anything against Miss Rehman.

But now much against our will, we have to point an accusing finger at Miss Rehman and tell her that she has not been playing the host to our foreign guests properly and giving our country and people a bad name unnecessarily.

We won't mention here the bitter complaints which some women delegates from Indonesia, Philippines and Malaya to the Indo-Australian Seminar made against Miss Rehman, who according to them was an "impossible woman" and the "last person one would like to meet in a friendly country". We shall stick to a specific example to bring home to the Muslim Ministry of Education the importance of being polite and efficient to visiting foreigners, if not to maintain the prestige of our country and its people at least to support the internationalism of Pandit Nehru who has personally permitted the Ministry of Education in a secular state to become a communal strong-

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hold of Muslims. Damn the Hindus of Bharat and their fabulous notions of hospitality, Maulana Azad and his minions in the Ministry of Education should not at least let down Nehru, the last Pir of Muslims in secular India.

With the main intention of competing with the Hindu Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Miss S. Rc of the Muslim Ministry of Education invited M: ..arie Seton of the British Film Institute to visit India .id conduct film seminars in different cities of the country.

That was a good idea which should have normally struck the Hindu Ministry of Information which handles and manhandles all fil:s in India. But Dr. Keskar was evidently too busy su ervising the programme work of Sumati Mutatkar to worry about improving the film appreciation sense of our people.

Marie Seton was a good choice. Marie has been in films for umpteen years. She is perhaps as old as the British Film Institute. She has worked with Paul Rotha and Eisenstein; lectured in France, Italy, Netherlands, England, America and many other countries of the world; she has written and produced documentaries and written an excellent biography of Eisenstein. In inviting Marie Seton, Miss Rehman did the right thing. And Marie was a cheap buy for Rs. 3000|-, the grant-in-aid paid to her. (Demand No. 19 of the Ministry's Budget) Marie Seton

**Pran is gone Mongolian and who would not seeing what he sees? There is something in Veena which would make a man change his nationality. But let us see what these two are doing in "Halaku".**

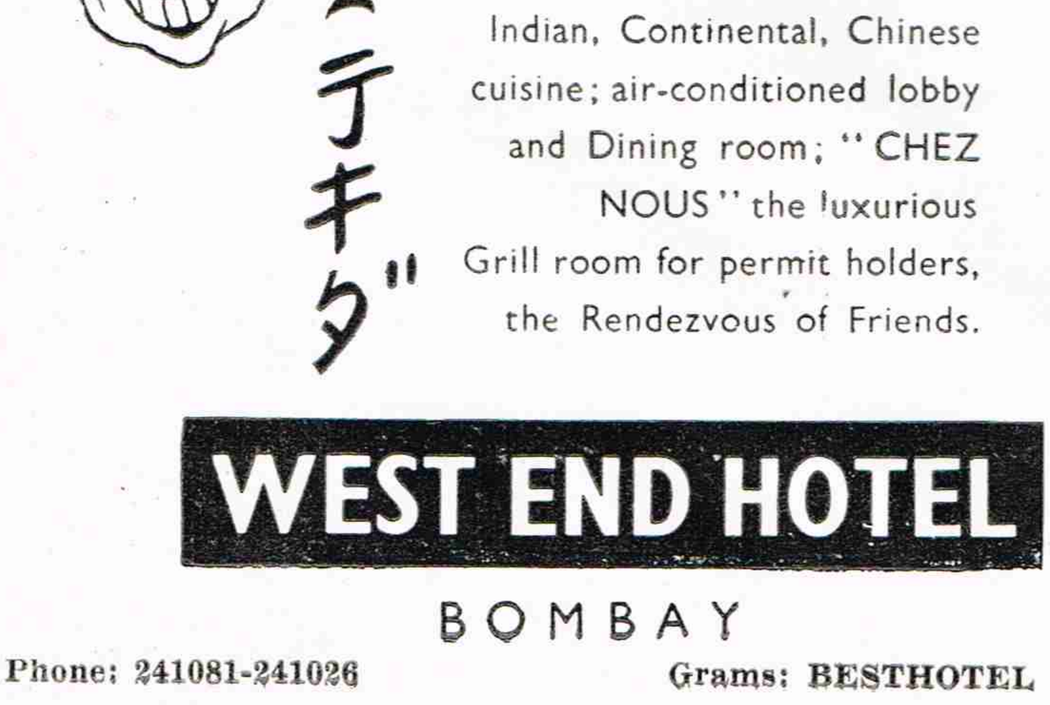
gave as many as 51 lectures for that money all over the country.

But what Miss S. Rehman seemed to forget was that Marie Seton was a guest of our people and as such deserved and expected the best we can offer in politeness, smiles and hospitality. Another thing Miss Rehman seemed to forget was that Marie Seton was an expert in her field and having brought her out here we should have got the utmost out of her by telling the people who she was and by calling upon them to make the most of her visit.

Miss Rehman was the liaison officer for Marie Seton in India and it was her duty to do this. But both the women did not seem to click from the very first day. When Marie Seton arrived in Bombay on October 16, 1955, she had no one from the Muslim Ministry of Education expecting her, in spite of the fact that the Films Officer in India House in London had informed the Muslim Ministry of Education of the exact date of Marie Seton's arrival in Bombay.

On arrival in Bombay, Marie Seton phoned up Mr. Bhownagary of the Films Division. This long-nosed Parsi, who is in charge of news and documentaries, knew nothing about Marie being invited to India and probably for the first time in his life heard of a name like Marie Seton. That man is evidently not interested in news. Luckily Marie had friends in Bombay whose address Marie had long before sent to Miss Rehman. It was on October 18, that Marie received her first recognition from Miss Rehman in the form of a short letter.

What Marie Seton experienced in her first two days in India, she experienced throughout her tour in India. Nowhere was anyone waiting for her, to arrange her lectures or to hear her. And yet the Muslim Ministry of


C'EST BON!
IST GUT!
ズテキ!
Yes, in any language, the West End Hotel is good ! Its comfort-features are : well furnished, air-conditioned rooms, baths attached ; radio and telephone in each room ; excellent Indian, Continental, Chinese cuisine; air-conditioned lobby and Dining room; "CHEZ NOUS" the luxurious Grill room for permit holders, the Rendezvous of Friends.
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Education had invited her to lecture all over the country spending Rs. 3000|- of the tax-payers' money.

Not in one town—and Marie Seton visited Bombay, Delhi, Allahabad, Banaras, Patna, Calcutta, Gaya, Madras, Bangalore, Mysore and Hyderabad—was any preliminary information about her sent nor was her programme speaking advertised among the people. At almost every place the local institutions and officers had to make last minute arrangements for Marie Seton with the result that the attendances were poor throughout. What the local educational officers said of Miss Rehman we cannot repeat. Some of them quoted many previous incidents.

Lectures be damned, Miss Seton's personal travelling arrangements were also badly handled by Miss Rehman. She never seemed to do anything in time and in the first week of February Marie Seton was actually stranded in Calcutta. Marie was scheduled to speak in Madras but she had neither an air nor rail ticket to leave Calcutta. Mr. Chakravarty, a local officer of the Ministry of Education, sent a telegram to the Ministry informing the Ministry regarding the urgent requirements of Miss Marie Seton. But Miss Rehman who was in sole charge of Marie Seton did not reply.

On 4th February, Marie Seton wrote a frantic letter to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, whom she had met in New Delhi, and requested Indira to intervene on her behalf and get the wagon moving again. Indira, sensitive like her illustrious father, acted quickly which is evident from the angry telegram Marie Seton received from Humayun Kabir, the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, the very next day.

The angry telegram reads as follows:

X OE NEW DELHI 5 STE 37 SETON C|O SEN 6 RUSSELL ST CALCUTTA REGRET INCONVENIENCE DUE FAILURE ARRANGEMENTS BUT SURPRISED YOU SHOULD TROUBLE MRS INDIRA GANDHI OVER TRIFLES INSTEAD CONTACTING MINISTRY STOP HOWEVER AUTHORIZE AIR TRAVEL MADRAS IF NECESSARY = KABIR EDUCIND

In this telegram to Marie Seton, Humayun, the Grand Vazier of the Muslim Ministry of Education, admits "failure of arrangements" by his Ministry but is angry and indignant at Miss Seton for referring the matter to Indira Gandhi. And he also forgets Marie's previous telegrams to his Ministry, not to mention Chakravarty's telegram.

Now here is an educated Moghul of Maulana Azad who admits his own mistake but blames someone else for it. What type of a gentleman is this Moghul?

What else can an elderly foreign lady, a perfect stranger in India, stranded in a heartless city like Calcutta do without money or friends but to appeal to the one person she thought was kind and human (Indira Gandhi) in the whole of Delhi? Indira did not disappoint her but Humayun Kabir did. There is a distinct male caddishness about Kabir's telegram and if there is still any refinement and education left in Kabir after being in


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When faces become square, women begin to look like ancient Mongolian relics. Meena Kumari is probably playing an ancient role in "Halaku", an exciting yarn of Mongolian days.

office for so many years, he should immediately submit an apology to Miss Marie Seton for that rude telegram. We have already apologized to Marie on behalf of Kabir, the Muslim Ministry of Education, our Government and Bharat, that is India.

And this man Kabir, who gets wrongly angry and indignant, who admits the mistakes of his own department and yet blames others unnecessarily, who does not like to be discovered by a gentle lady like Indira Gandhi and who allows a person like Miss S. Rehman to toy and fool with our national prestige, is now being groomed to be our next Minister of Education.

What our future Ministry of Education is going to be can well be imagined from Kabir's caddish telegram to Miss Marie Seton.

And now we suggest a deal: We agree to forget our quarrel with our Muslim Ministry of Education if the Ministry submits an official apology to Miss Marie Seton and asks her to forget the unpleasant experience which was thrust upon her and in the meantime punishes Miss S. Rehman for being rude and inefficient to an honoured guest.

Incidentally, it would do a lot of good to swollen-headed officials like Miss Rehman to remember what Prime Minister Nehru said while speaking at the Indian Institute of Public Administration on April 7, 1956, in New Delhi.

Said the Prime Minister, "I have never said 'No' to an ordinary man coming to see me although I have refused several times to meet officials for want of time. Even the humblest of the humble are most welcome at my place."

Pandit Nehru asked high Government officers to treat common people with "utmost respect and courtesy". He said officers often treated common people with "contempt and discourtesy" because they thought that in their present positions they were quite secure and they could afford to be discourteous to the general public.

If Pandit Nehru wants the humblest of the humble of our countrymen to be treated with utmost respect and courtesy by Government officers, how much respect and courtesy would he expect in the case of our respected foreign guests?

Miss Rehman and Mr. Kabir should answer that question with an apology to Miss Marie Seton.

## STOP THIS SADISM OF POWER

Prohibition is a stupid thing to enforce because a moral measure makes the people more hostile and less moral. But an efficient police can certainly go about intelligently while enforcing a stupid law. Because a law is inherently stupid, it doesn't follow that it should also be enforced stupidly.

But that is precisely what W. K. Patil, our Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition, is doing on Sundays and holidays. This man is evidently not anxious to catch any crime. He only wants to make an impression on his Congress bosses that the Prohibition Police is very alert and active even on holidays. And to do that he does not mind putting thousands of motorists to great inconvenience and annoyance unnecessarily.

What does this unintelligent satrap do? On every Sunday and public holiday, he posts half-a-dozen officers and a score of constables at the Mahim Causeway from 5 P.M. onwards and instructs them to stop and search thoroughly every car that returns to the city till 8|30 P.M.

The presumption under which this is done is that motorists go to Juhu, Marwe and other picnic places and there secure bottles of bootleg liquor which they take back to the city.

The procedure in which this is done is to stop a car and pounce on it for five minutes till an enterprising sub-inspector sometimes reaches even for the knickers of a lady motorist. As car after car is stopped and searched, a queue of over three hundred cars lines up for a good four furlongs, all waiting to undergo the ordeal.

It does not occur to Dy. Commissioner Patil that the man at the middle or end of the queue, if he happens to have some bootleg liquor with him, can easily get out of

his car and walk across the police barrier from the other side of the road and ask his driver to bring the car across after police examination. The long queue gives him sufficient notice of what is being done by a crowd of policemen and after this notice no sensible motorist will take the stupid risk of carrying bootleg liquor in his car even if he happens to have a bottle with him. Dy. Commissioner Patil must realize that people who drink liquor have more brains than policemen seeing that they have to earn more money to be able to buy the liquor.

Besides, this stupid search has now become a Sunday-holiday feature and all motorists know it. Where then is the element of surprise which often catches crime ? Does Dy. Commissioner Patil believe that motorists, who are normally people of some status in life, would take a desperate risk of carrying bootleg liquor in their cars knowing fully well that a crowd of nosy policemen is going to stop them on the Mahim Causeway ? If Dy. Commissioner Patil really believes that it is time he is sent to the lunatic asylum.

And is this what all the Dy. Commissioners and Superintendents discuss and decide at the Commissioner's tea conference daily? If this type of obvious and clumsy detection—which exhibits only the sadism of power—is expected to make Prohibition a success the earlier Morarji Desai gives up the dreamy experiment the better.

Dy. Commissioner Patil must rush to the cradles of bootleg liquor and not to the cars of respectable citizens if he is serious about Prohibition. If Morarji Desai would get into one of these cars on a Sunday evening at 6|30 P.M. he would realize that going across the police barrier takes as much as an hour. Well, that is not what the police are meant for—to obstruct traffic on a holiday—nor to practise sadism of power on respectable citizens.

If Prohibition has to be enforced let it be done intelligently and not in this amateurishly detective manner.

**SHIVA, SALESMAN OF SEX?**

The Hindus of India are an ancient and patient race. They are noble and liberal like their philosophical religion. Through ages there have been a million onslaughts on their religion by infidels and invaders. But Hindus and Hinduism seem as eternal as the sacred Ganga that flows from the Himalayas into the sea.

But once in a while even the patient and liberal Hindus have to sit up and take notice when some stupid foreigner seeks to exploit their sacred symbols for making commercial profits.

The Linga is a sacred symbol of Lord Shiva. It has been worshipped by millions and millions of Hindus


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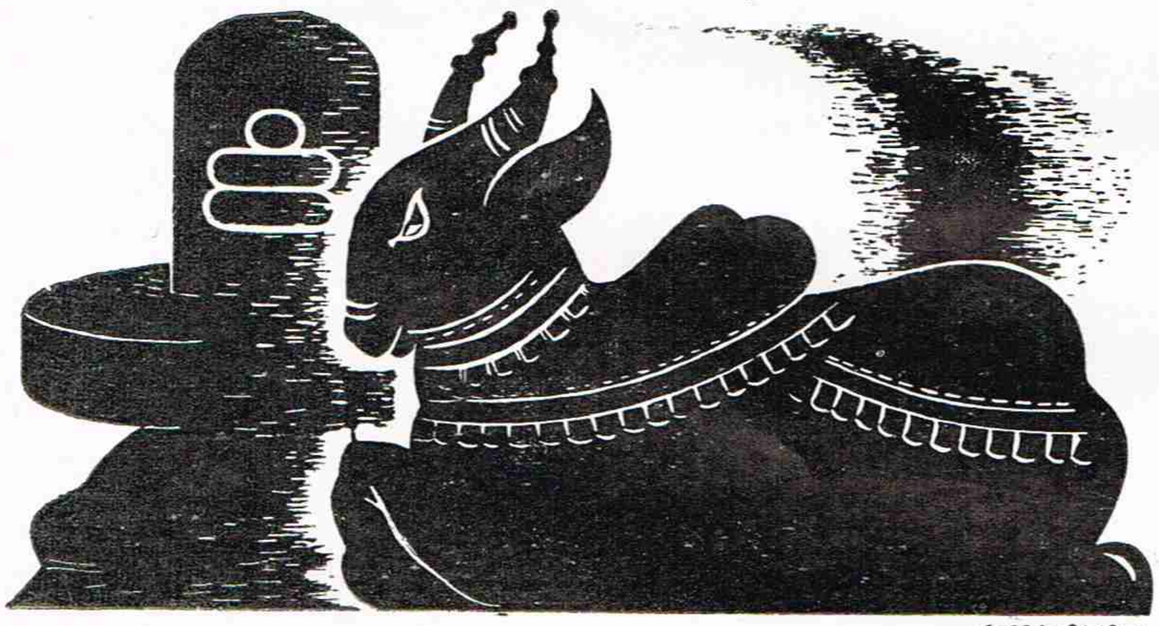
through centuries with a devotion almost fanatic in its sincerity. The Linga symbolizes the two great generative principles of the universe, Shiva and Shakti, or Purusha and Prakriti, the father and mother of all creations, the energy and matter of physical science. This symbol of the Great Architect of the universe is at once philosophic and religious as it represents the fatherhood and motherhood of the supreme deity.

A symbol that is worshipped by millions of Hindus cannot be used for selling sexual tonics which give tone to the penis, scrotum and seminal vesicles. Doing so would be discovering an obscenity in a sacred religious symbol which is purely philosophical and realistic and as such symbolically representative of the generative principle of the universe.

But that is precisely what Les Laboratories Loussel, a French firm of pharmaceutical products, represented in India by French Indian United Laboratories, Bapnu Ghar, Hornby Vellard, Bombay 18, is doing in India. This firm manufactures a number of male and female hormone products called Sterandryl. These products claim to wake up the dead in their bed of lust. We don't object to that. But to emphasize the sexual voltage of their Sterandryl, the French manufacturers have used Lord Shiva's Linga and Bull as their main sales argument. And in doing so they unconsciously condemn Lord Shiva as a symbol of lust. We reproduce below the wrapper of the pamphlet framing the virtues of Sterandryl circulated in the medical profession.

Physiology and therapy of the

**male hormone**



GHOBAI-BOMBAY

STERANDRYL

On Page 2, what Sterandryl does for men is graphically told and shown. You cannot make a mistake about it. Even reading of the unique efficacy of the French testosterone is intended to give new tone to the penis and one almost feels that Lord Shiva must have used the French hormone. Here is the page:





**testosterone**

**has as a fundamental action**

**its inductive effect on the secondary sexual characters**

The work of PEZARD has in 1911 shown the action of testicular extract on the growth of the comb of the capon; this fact has been utilised as a test by Mac Gee in 1927, then by Gallagher and Koch and by Laqueur who measured the growth of the comb photographically.

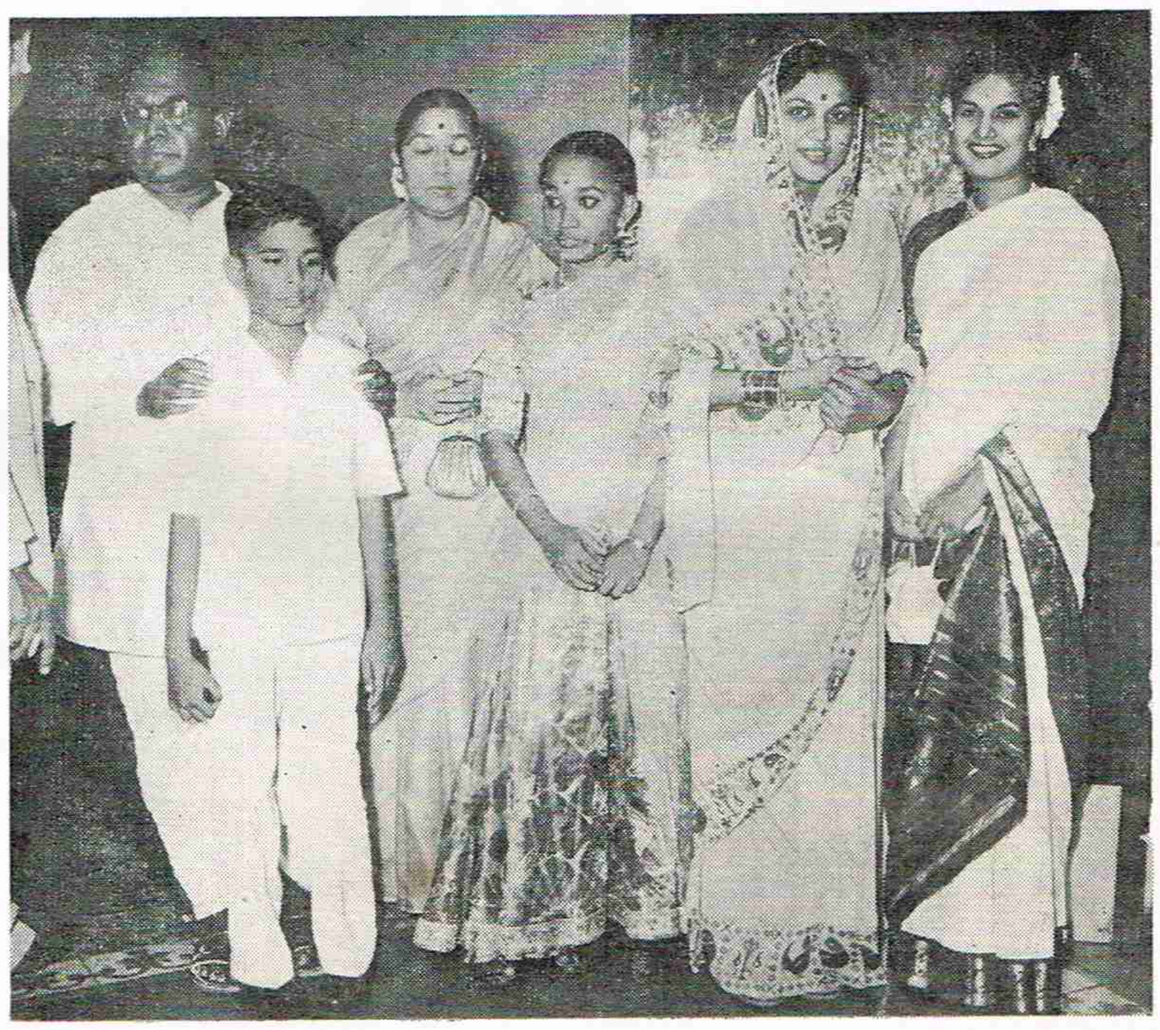
Another test employed for the dosage of androgens is the increase in size of the seminal vesicles and of the prostate in the castrated rat.

Note the posture

**in men** **the male hormone has a direct action:**

- **on development of the genital tract** — penis, scrotum, seminal vesicles.
- **in differentiation of the hairiness**
- **on the modification of the voice**
- **on the orientation of the psychism** — accentuation of the psychomotor activities and the development of sexual instinct.

Page 4 of the pamphlet is still more unique. It shows Goddess Laxmi as the patron of the female sex hormone. Here is the reproduction of the page:



**At the premiere of "Bhai-Bhai" in Bombay. From left to right: Producer Meiyappan Chettiar, Master Balasubramanyan, Mrs. Rajeshwari Chettiar, Miss Meena Chettiar, Nirupa Roy and Shyama.**

**testosterone**

**2**

**is the physiological antagonist of the female sex hormones:** *stimulants and folliculin*

**by two different modes of action:**

a **inhibition of hypophysis secondary to ovarian activity:**

Experimentally it has been possible to show a depressive action on the production of gonadotrophin; in the normal adult rat for example, the administration of large doses of testosterone propionate produces a physiological state of hypophysectomy (Varangot).

**in the female** a dose of 500 to 600 mg. of testosterone distributed uniformly over a period of a month can produce temporary cessation of the menstrual cycle.

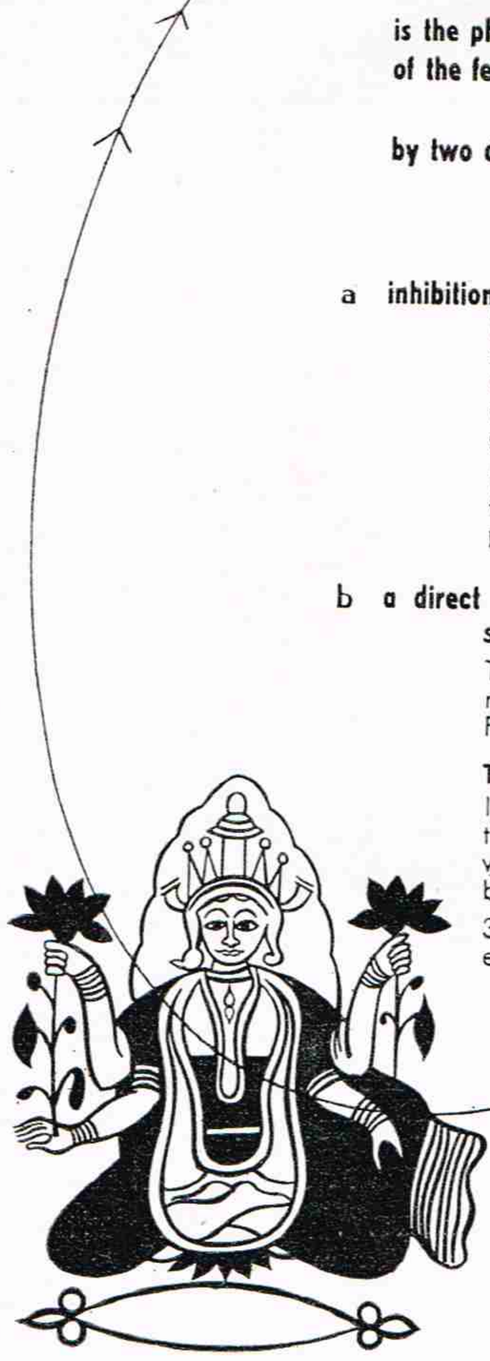
b **a direct neutralization of the estrogenic action at the same level of the receptors:**

The demonstration has been shown by several authors, notably by Shoor, Papanicolaou and Stimmel and by Ferin, in menopausal or castrated women.

**The neutralisation varies with the organs:**

It needs 25 mg. of testosterone propionate to inhibit the action of 0.5 mg. of estradiol benzoate on the vaginal mucosa, the two hormones being administered by intramuscular route.

350 mg. suffice to neutralise the effects of 15 mg. of estradiol benzoate on the endometrium.




Though many foreigners often do such stupid things through malice or mischief, we won't attribute any racial motives to the French manufacturers at this stage. At the moment we choose to attribute this to the ignorance of the foreign firm regarding the religious sentiments of our people.

But we must tell these Frenchmen that their use of Linga and Laxmi for selling sexual tonics hurts the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus and not only must the offensive pamphlet be withdrawn from circulation immediately but also a general apology to the Hindu community should be given with gracious humility. We would like to have an assurance to this effect immediately.

If after this friendly warning the French manufacturers still persist in circulating the pamphlet, well, then let them not complain afterwards that we did not warn them. They should remember that the worshippers of Lord Shiva and Parvati are fanatic in their sincerity of devotion and believe in human blood for sacrificial purposes.

In the meantime, those in the Government, who look after these foreign firms, would do well to look after such firms a little more closely and see that they do not hurt and insult the religious susceptibilities of our people while trading in this country.

**OUR POLICEMEN DISGRACED**

That Morarji Desai's policemen are not very useful and trustworthy was recently proved when Prime Minister Nehru was reported to have been warned by the Chinese Premier Chou En Lai and told that his (Nehru's) life would be in danger if he visited Bombay in February 1956 to attend the naval demonstrations.

Knowing that the Chinaman had correctly foretold the fate of the "Kashmir Princess", the Air India International plane which fell burning into the sea, Prime Minister Nehru took serious notice of the warning and visited Bombay without the usual fanfare and with hundreds of police 'Hanumans' watching him from the trees that lined his route to the British aircraft carrier "Albion" from where he saw the naval demonstrations. And he returned to Delhi as quickly and safely as he had arrived. Everyone thanked God that the visit passed off without any tragic incident.

But the report that Chinaman Chou knew that there would be disturbances in Bombay if Nehru visited Bombay and that there was a plot against Nehru's life raises some questions. And as our government has not contradicted the report of Chinaman Chou warning Indian Nehru even six weeks after its publication, we must believe it to be true.

If the report is to be accepted as true, then the questions that arise from it are:

1. What are our intelligence services doing if they cannot effectively protect our Prime Minister?

2. What were the Bombay police doing if they did not know of a plot against our Prime Minister's life and had to be alerted by a Chinaman thousands of miles away.

3. How did the Chinaman know in Peking of a plot in Bombay? Is Chou a crystal gazer?

4. Is the Chinese spying organization in India so widespread and perfect as to be able to trace a murderous plot before the Indian security forces come to know about it? Did the Indian police at all know about it even after the warning?

5. As several Communist leaders had incited the recent rioting in Bombay, is it possible that some local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Communists thought of killing Nehru and Chinese espionage in India came to know about the plot because of common ideological interests?

6. Are the numerous popular Chinese restaurants in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and other principal cities of India used as spying cells by the Chinese Communists?

7. Is the goodlooking Handoo of the Central Intelligence only interested in keeping an eye on goodlooking girls and not on the Chinese spies who discovered the plot against Nehru?

8. Are we watching the foreigners in our country or are the foreigners keeping a close watch on us?

9. And finally can crystal-gazing Chou tell us what are Morarji Desai's underground activities to keep Bombay City out of Maharashtra?

Someone must answer these questions convincingly if the disgrace of our security forces is ever to be forgotten. In the meantime it would be a good idea to add a few Chinese security officers to the sleeping three hundred that infest the grounds of the Prime Minister's House presumably to guard him. The Chinamen will at least save our beloved Prime Minister's life in time when Handoo might be found on the ballroom floor in the arms of some scheming dame of Delhi.

**YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE —**

THAT Gandhian Congressman Hanumanthaiyya, Chief Minister of Mysore, spent Rs. 1000|- in three days during his recent official trip to New Delhi. Out of this, Rs. 600|- were paid to the hotel for three days at Rs. 200|- per day for board and lodging in an air-conditioned room. Old boy Hanumanthaiyya, coming from Kolar Gold Fields, knows how to live and we congratulate him. And Chaplin-moustached Dhebar tells us to live on Rs. 250|- a month. Rs. 1000|- in 3 days comes to Rs. 10,000|- in 30 days and to Rs. 1,00,000|- in 300 days and to Rs. 1,21,666|- and odd in a year. So that is where the American aid goes! The stupid Americans deserve it too.

THAT our town-and-country model in ministers, Gul-Gulzari Nanda complains that wherever his Planning Ministry starts a Community Project, a liquor shop is opened before anything else. The town-and-country model doesn't realize that the liquor man begins his social service by first meeting the requirements of the Community Project workers without whom the project would fail. Men who build an oasis in a desert need some encouragement.

THAT Pandit Nehru finding no political subject for the next day's morning papers visited the slums of Delhi for the umpteenth time, probably at the request of the Press Trust of India who are in business on national lines. And after uttering the usual slogan of "Basti jalado", Pandit Nehru said, "Whenever I visit these slums, here or elsewhere, I feel very rebellious. I do not quite know against whom—may be against myself—but anyhow I feel very unhappy and rebellious." And Shakespeare thought he created a perfect character in Hamlet. Our Indian edition will beat any damn Western edition hollow. Our Hamlet does not know whether he is hot or cold when boiling. Shakespeare's grandfather could not have even dreamt of a phenomenon like this.

THAT Miss Eve Barret, a crazy American woman who finds rare beauty in Acharya Vinoba Bhave, our Bhoodan Bhoot, has taken hundreds of photographs of Vinoba's sandals saying that they were as "historic and valuable" as the Bhoodan movement itself. We don't know which firm of shoe manufacturers in America she represents but don't be surprised if the next American ambassador to India steps on our soil in Bhoodan Sandals, the globe-trotter's last dream.

THAT seeing that bearded Golwalkar, the R.S.S. Chief, was collecting lakhs and lakhs of rupees from the people on his 51st birthday, Nehru got scared and condemned communalism in a speech at Hubli saying, "We had blamed the Muslim League for communalism. Now the League is finished in India (Ha! Ha! Nehru, the blanket boy). But then we have instead the Hindu Mahasabha." In five towns alone—Delhi, Kanpur, Jabalpur, Nagpur and Poona—Golwalkar has been presented purses amounting to Rs. 11,63,151. The all-India collections threaten to reach well over a crore of rupees taking into account several secret donations. What Nehru wants to know is where was all this money on his own 51st birthday?

THAT in Madras the legislators cannot twist and turn their tongues intelligently during the sweltering summer and Chief Minister Kamraj Nadar found Congress legislators nodding their heads like bullocks without uttering a word. An investigation revealed a "Nira" parlour near the Assembly where several legislators are reported to have got drunk on "Nira". The experiment is worth trying in Bombay by using "Nira" as an armament in the Battle of Bombay.

THAT Sri Prakasa, the barrel-shaped Governor of Madras, having nothing else to do disguised himself as a

**Vyjayantimala and Ashok Kumar go South to make love to each other in "Sitaron se Aagey", a social theme produced by V.L. Narsu.**

Banaras-bound pilgrim and won the first prize at a fancy-dress competition. That was the only prize Sri Prakasa got on sheer merit and without using Nehru's influence. If Mahtab, the Bombay Governor, dresses as an Oriya fisherman—?

THAT an enterprising college student in Banaras cut his own tongue with a razor blade and gave it as an offering to propitiate the goddess in the local Annapoorna temple and then went to the hospital for treatment. We have thus lost a great walkie-talkie who could have replaced Nehru.

THAT during the recent riotous Holi festival in the "durbar" circles of New Delhi, our bald and short Minister of Defence, Mahavir Tyagi, overdosed himself with "bhang" probably and managed to plant a kiss on Pandit Nehru's soft cheeks saying, "There can be no grouse or complaint on a Holi day. My life's ambition has been fulfilled." Pandit Nehru was too stunned to say anything about the homosexual gesture of Mahavir Tyagi.

THAT N. R. Pillay, Secretary General of the External Affairs Ministry, is these days trying different cooks and testing "jelabis". He wants an expert who can make "jelabis" for Chinaman Chou who simply loves them. If Chou is put on Annapoorna food, we think he can be packed off earlier.

THAT Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru told the Rajya Sabha that we had 77 ordinances in 6 years in democratic India—more than one a month. And people say our President is barren. When power fertilizes age anything can happen.

THAT Congressman Manubhai Shah, Finance Minister of Saurashtra, revealed in the Legislative Assembly that the Paniwala Maharaj, who claimed water-divining powers, was a hoax. He was employed on Rs. 2200|- per month and by the time the hoax was discovered, government had spent on him Rs. 3.5 lakhs. That was K. M. Munshi's birthday gift to the Saurashtra Government. Considering Munshi's unique status the gift could not be cheap. Anyway, the Paniwala guy knew how to separate fools and their money.

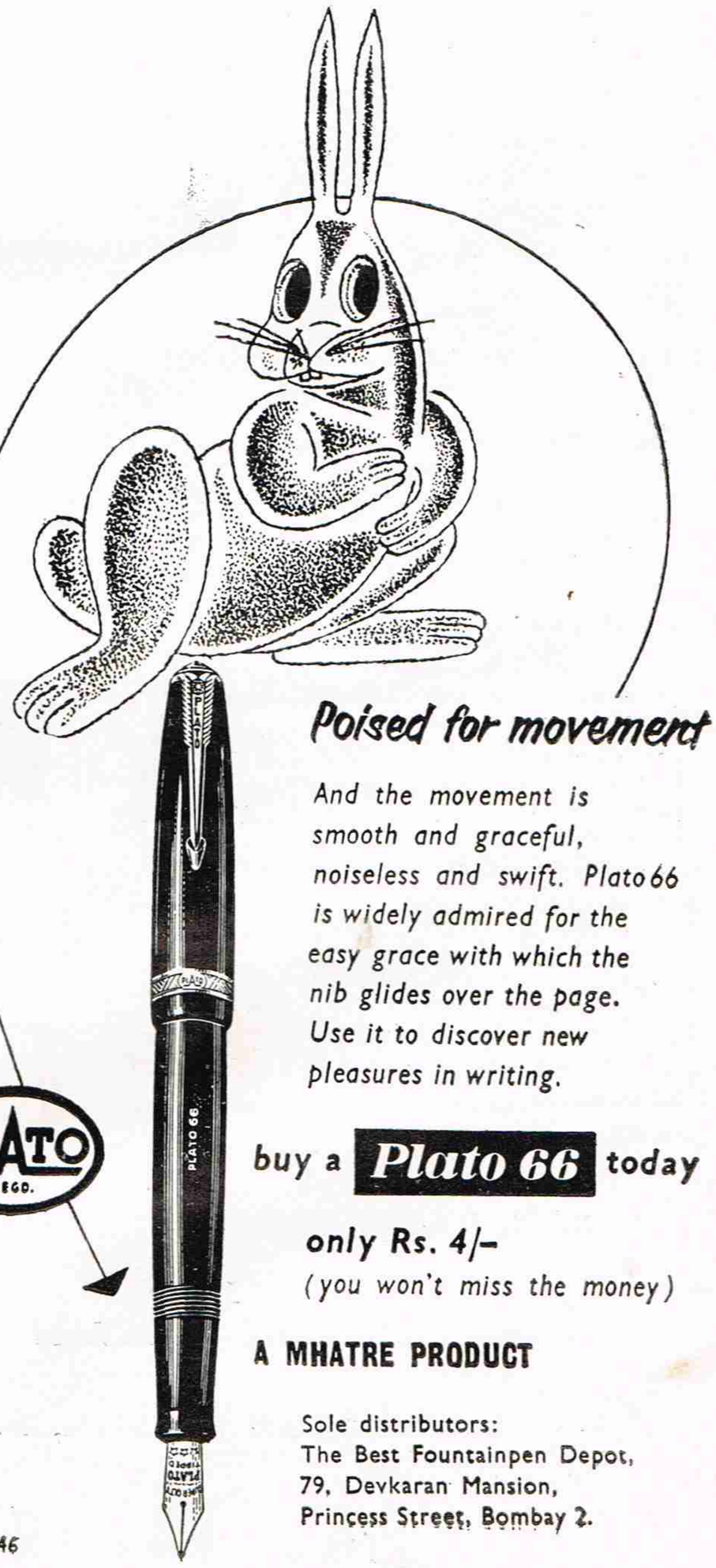
THAT H. V. Kamath, the bearded Praja Socialist, said Amrit Kaur's B.C.G. meant "brazen, cursed and grotesque" and described Rajkumari's jaundice epidemic in Delhi as "yellow murder on a large scale". That is too cruel a description of the achievements of a sincere woman. If only Kamath could realize the labour Amrit "Cure" went through to create that jaundice—!

THAT the Lok Sabha where the destiny of 360 million helpless and trusting souls is designed from day to day works like a fish market and the spherical Speaker, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, had to pull up the members saying, "Let all members finish talking to one another. How are we to work here if members go on indulging in conversation in this House?" So Gandhian Congressmen could not learn even primary schoolroom discipline during the last nine years of freedom.

THAT Congressman Dr. Melkote, P.W.D. Minister of Hyderabad, offered himself to be shot dead publicly if the allegation of favouritism made against him was proved correct. It was only a case of an in-law being within law. In any case Dr. Melkote will have to wait till America gives us money to buy arms and Soviet Russia agrees to sell us arms.

THAT film actress Madhubala has at last started defining and describing love. She doesn't think love is merely a romantic attraction between man and woman. Being "old-fashioned", she thinks, it is more than that. In the case of her father it was six daughters in a row. That was not merely more but more than enough.

THAT film actress Shashikala is learning a new rhumba from actor Kishore Kumar these days. They began rehearsals in Delhi while shooting outdoors of "Krorepati". It has the same steps which gives wife Ruma nausea and vomiting whenever Kishore rehearses at home. Shashikala, however, is a versatile dancer and can keep up with the most dizzy steps.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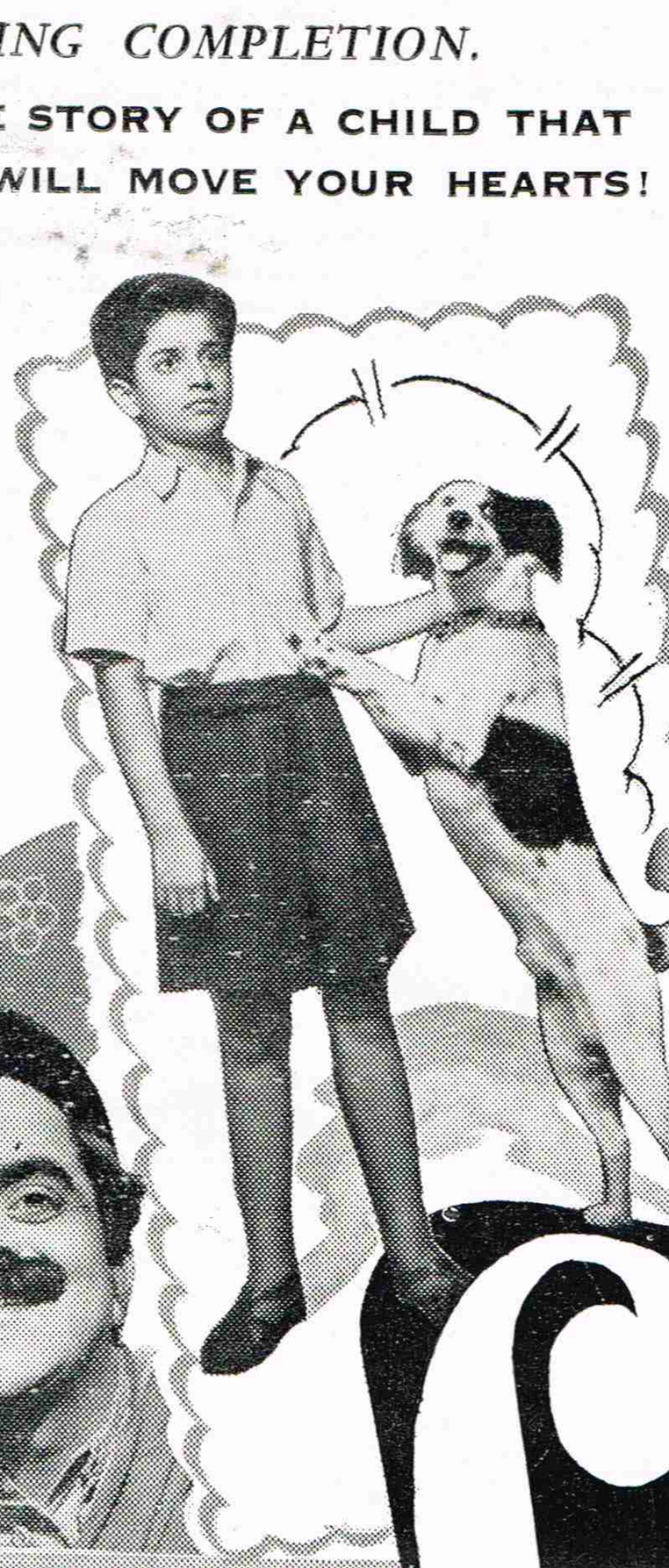

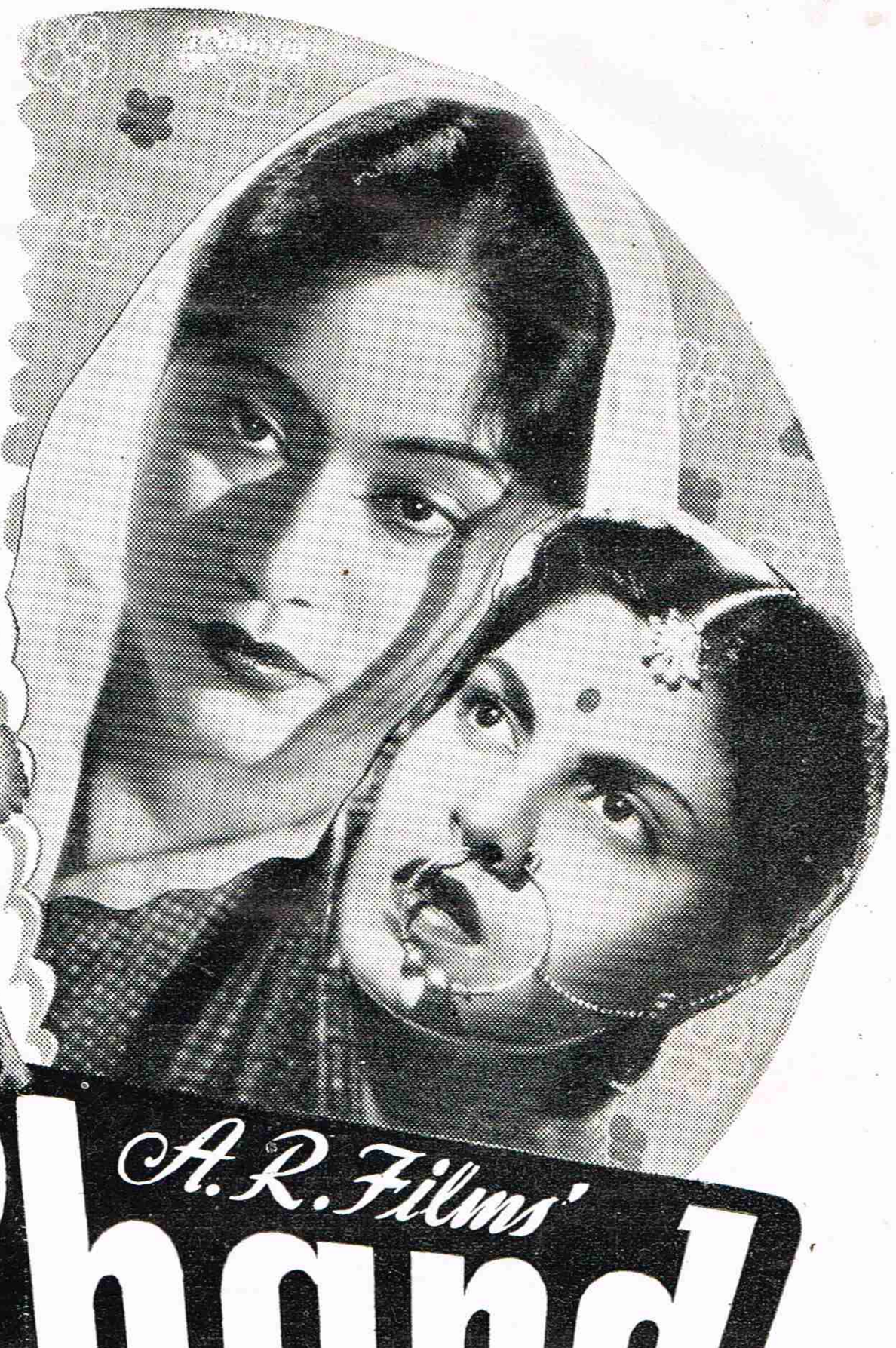

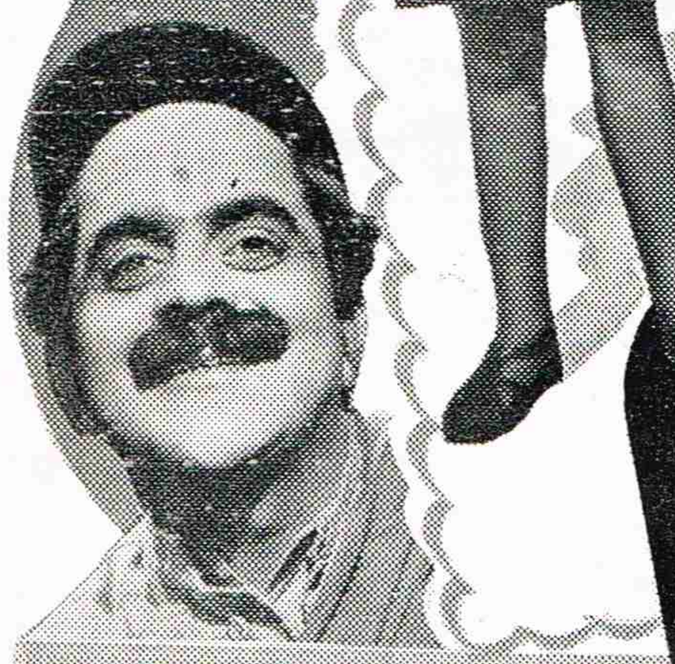

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(OF PRABHAT)
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*Story & Dialogue :*
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*Lyrics :*
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36

THAT Producer Jaimini Dewan, one time President of I.M.P.P.A., still takes a keen interest in the progress and prosperity of the Indian film industry. Like his friend Bakshi "Junk" Bahadur, Jaimini also believes that the future of the industry is in the hands of the young artistes who should get the right training in their early formative years. Believing in practice being better than precept, Jaimini has already started training Naina, the pretty little actress who works in Dewan Sharar's "Vasavadatta".

THAT Begum, the 212-lb mother of Noor and Shakila, is these days taking training from her motor driver and learning the tricks of fast driving and gear-changing with a view to become an expert. It seems that last time when Johnny Walker kidnapped Noor for marriage, Begum could not chase them not knowing how to drive a car. With the Begum thus busy, Shakila feels very lonely these days.

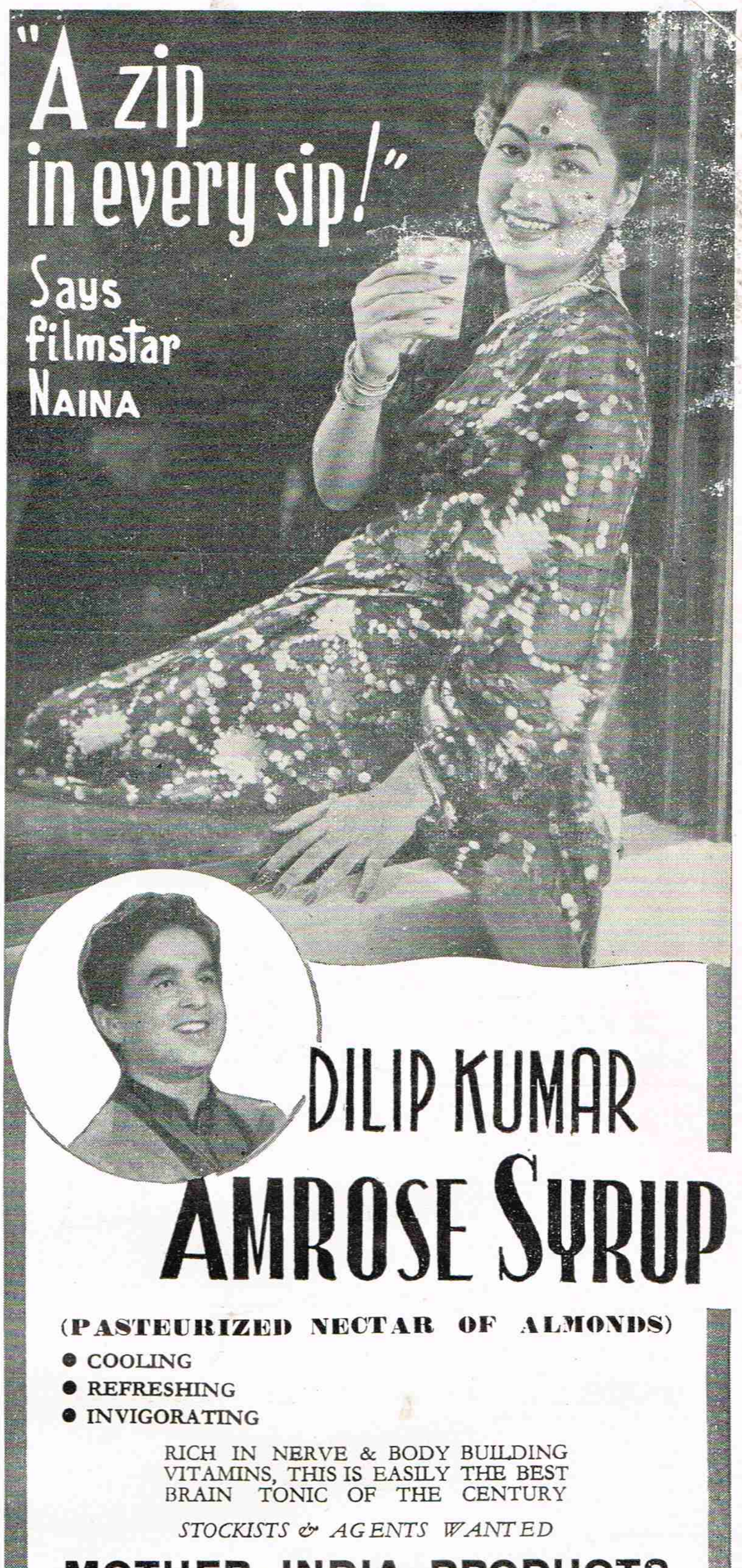
THAT of all people, poor Agha, our pleasant-mannered comedian, has been attacked by somnambulism (sleep-walking), a dangerous disease for a person away from home. Film actresses Shyama and Nirupa discovered the symptoms in him while shooting in Madras and called Ashok Kumar to help them save Agha from himself. The poor girls got almost a heart attack in spite of being familiar with the disease. Agha should take his charming wife to look after him when he goes to Madras next. The hot and dry city can ruin any man's health and character.

THAT film actress Meena Kumari fell into her bath-tub the other day and got a black eye and scar on her forehead. She evidently has a boxing bath-tub. The accident held up the shooting of several producers.

THAT Producer Shahid Lateef's new family anthem is called Zubeida. She comes from Rampur to work in Shahid's "noo" film "Lala Rukh". And both Shahid and Ismat sing praises of the new find. Very few wives understand business. That way Ismat is a rare one.

THAT M. A. Mughni returned to Bombay after a "fact-finding tour" of Pakistan where he found Wali, Hasnain and Najam Naqvi, the new renegades, and Shaukat Hussein and W. Z. Ahmed, the old crooks, "extremely sympathetic" towards India and the Indian film industry. Mughni also says that a big studio has been kept ready in Karachi to receive Producer A. R. Kardar whenever he chooses to go to Pakistan. That is some news, seeing that Najam was a trusted director in Kardar Studios before he quit India.

THAT a "noo" playback singer, 18-year old Chand Bala, with plenty of "it" in her fair face and melodious throat, has completely rattled old music directors like C. Ramchandra, Shanker, Jaikishen, O. P. Nayyar and others. Whatever they may think of her music they just can't stop singing about her beautiful face. We never saw so many music directors singing in a chorus a song of beauty. What is Naushad doing? Is he still busy trying to put melody into Ameeta's crow-throat?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RATAN JYOTI'S
**SHEIKH CHILLI**
*Starring*
Shyama - Mahipal - Agha - Bhagwan
*Directed By :* Ramchandra Thakur
*Music* Chitragupta

SAIGAL BROS.'
**KROREPATI**
*Starring*
Kishore - Shashikala
*Directed By :* Mohan Segal
*Music :* Shankar Jaikishan

DESAI FILMS'
**YAHUDI KI BETI**
*Starring*
Tabassum - Anita Guha - Daljeet
*Directed By :* Nanubhai Vakil
*Music :* Kamal Mitra

DESAI FILMS'
**SINHAL DWEEP KI SUNDRI**
*Directed By :*
Nanubhai Vakil

VAKIL PRODUCTIONS'
**LALE YAMAN**
*Starring*
Anita Guha - Daljeet
*Directed By :* Nanubhai Vakil
*Music :* A. R. Qureshi

*Contact :*
**HINDUSTAN FILMS CORPORATION,**
Old Rly. Road, JULLUNDUR.

## *For Bengal:*

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS'
**MOTHER INDIA**
*Starring*
NARGIS
*Directed By :* Mehboob
*Music :* Naushad

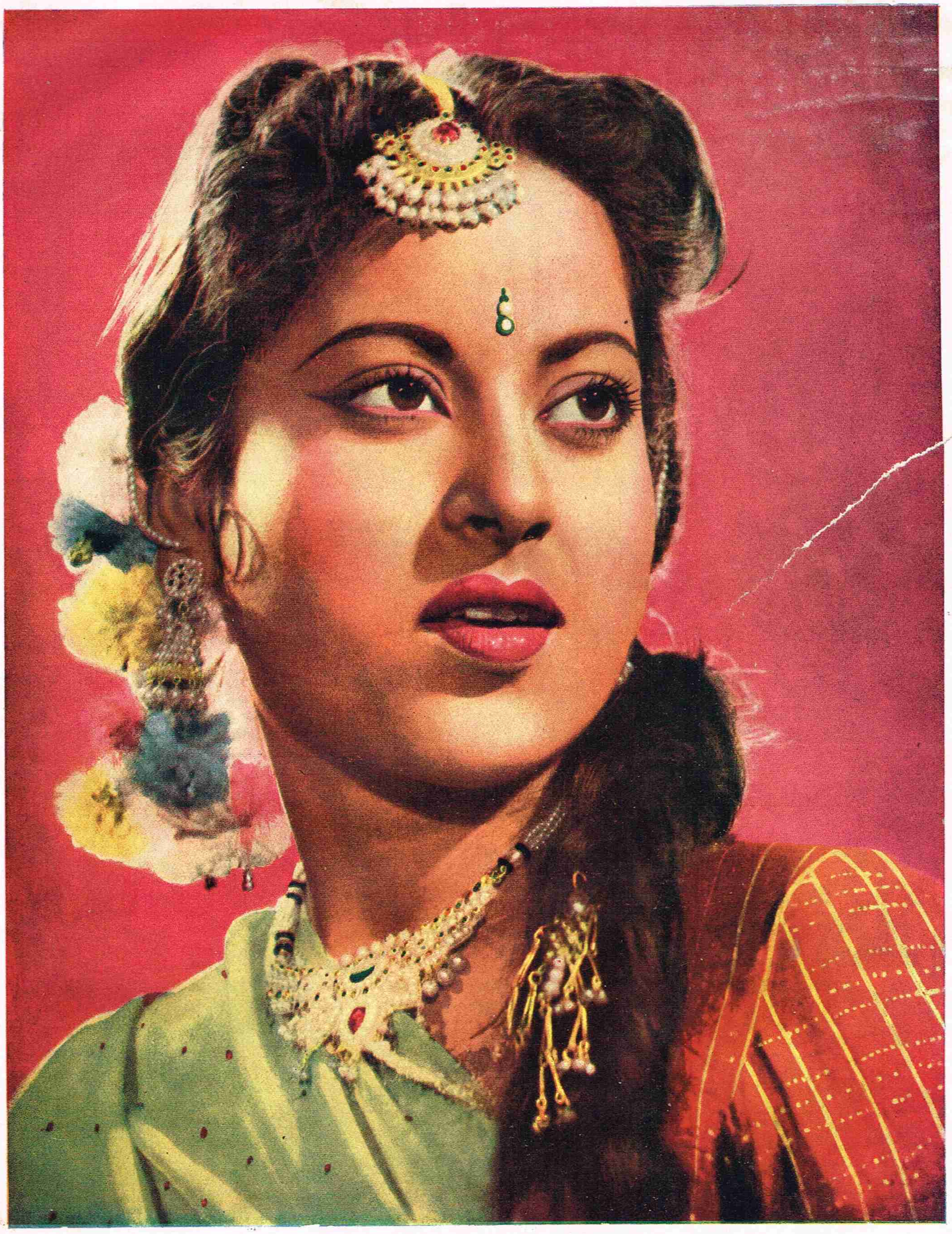
BLACK & WHITE MOVIES'
**POCKET MAAR**
*Starring*
Geeta Bali - Dev Anand - Nadira - Gope
*Directed By :* H. S. Rawail
*Music :* Madan Mohan

MUKTI FILMS'
**SATI NAGKANYA**
*Starring*
Nirupa Roy - Manhar Desai
*Directed By :* Babubhai Mistry
*Music :* S. N. Tripathi

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS'
**PAISA HI PAISA**
*Starring*
Kishore - Shakila - Mala Sinha
*Directed By :* Mehrish
*Music :* Anil Biswas

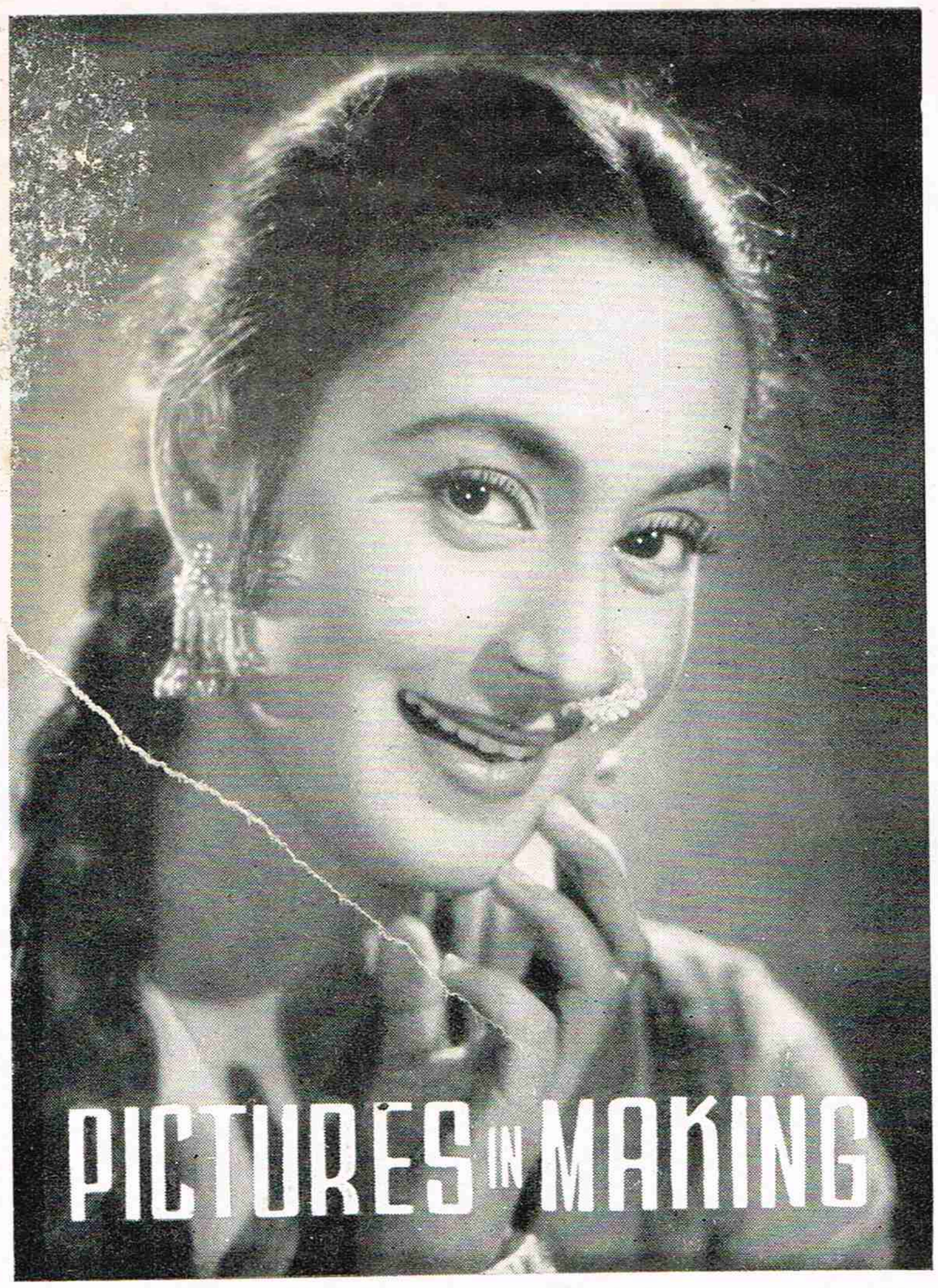
RATAN JYOTI'S
**SHEIKH CHILLI**
*Starring*
Shyama - Mahipal - Agha - Bhagwan
*Directed By :* Ramchandra Thakur
*Music :* Chitragupta

*Contact :*
**HINDUSTAN SUPER FILMS PRIVATE LTD.,**
56, Bentinck Street, CALCUTTA.



**ANITA GUHA—**

*She has been on the screen quite some time but she is being noticed now as the old ones are getting older. Anita Guha brings new thrill to the screen in "Chhoo Mantar," a rollicking comedy produced and directed by M. Sadiq.*




She is at that dangerous age of dreams coloured by the sparks of her imagination. The next turn in the road will bring her face to face with reality. Let us see whom Nutan meets in "Baarish", a social theme.

### AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

The long awaited "Bhai Bhai" was at last released in Bombay on 20th April at Roxy and other theatres in the city. And the huge crowds that have started flocking to the different theatres to see "Bhai Bhai", seem to be the beginning of a grand tale of success. Starring Ashok Kumar, Nimmi, Kishore Kumar, Shyama, Nirupa Roy, David, Om Prakash and others, "Bhai Bhai" reportedly offers two hours of solid entertainment through a story which, they say, is an admirable blend of powerful drama and high amusement. The picture is directed by M. V. Raman, a man experienced in turning out box-office entertainers. The dialogue and lyrics are written by Rajendra Krishna, while the music is composed by Madan Mohan. AVM Productions, meanwhile, is busy giving finishing touches to Nargis-Raj Kapoor starrer "Chori Chori".

### ALL INDIA PICTURES (Bombay)

Producer P. N. Arora, the man who has gained reputation for bringing to motion picture production almost the speed of automobile manufacture, is now busy with an ambitious costume picture. The title of the picture is "Halaku". A Persian tale of romance and adventure "Halaku" contains a huge cast headed by Ajit, Meena Kumari, and Pran, who plays the title role. D. D. Kashyap is in charge of the direction and he, along with Producer Arora, is making sure that the picture provides exciting entertainment. "Halaku" is expected to be ready by May when it will go to Censors. Also expected to be ready by May is "Anjaan", another Arora venture, which stars Vyjayantimala and Pradeep Kumar in the leading roles. Meanwhile, Producer Arora, with his characteristic speed and regularity, has already started his Production No. 20 which is titled "Neelofer". Being directed by Producer Arora himself, "Neelofer" features Chitra, Suresh, Nishi, Helen, Sunder, etc. "Neelofer" is also a costume tale.

### M. TARACHAND (Bombay)

A sister concern of T. Tarachand, M. Tarachand is a new name now flashing in the field of film distribution. And the films this concern has got on its current list make quite an impressive parade of pictures. Here is M. Tarachand's 1956 line-up: "Sabse Bada Rupaiya" starring Shashikala, Agha, Sunder, etc, and containing music by O. P. Nayyar and Nashad, and directed by Santoshi; G. M. Pictures' "Garma Garam" and "Delhi Ka Thug"; De Lux Films' "New Delhi"; S. B. Films' "Malika"; Anand Films' "Talaash", and Revati Productions' "Aatish". Between them, these pictures contain a host of top names and talents in the film industry and there is a lot of money hidden in them.

## *AVM's "Bhai Bhai" Released In Bombay—Arora's "Halaku" Being Made At Rocket-Speed—M. Tarachand Waves A Bag Of Gold—Spectacular Flood Scene Shot For Mehboob's "Mother India"—"Inspector" Next Change at Imperial—"Hari Har Bhakti" Comes to Central*

### DE LUX FILMS (Bombay)

Producer-director Mohan Segal has been working hard and fast and night and day over his maiden production "New Delhi". He recently went to the country's capital to do some extensive location shooting. The picture has become such a labour of love with Mohan Segal that, his publicists tell us, he even saluted and knelt before some intruding crows and dogs of the capital in order to ensure smooth shooting of the picture. "New Delhi" features Vyjayantimala and Kishore in the main romantic roles, supported by Radhakishen, Mirza Musharraf, Nazir Hussein, Jabeen, Shivraj, etc. The lyrics are written by Shailendra and Hasrat, while Shankar and Jaikishan set them to music.

### NARASU STUDIOS LTD. (Madras)

V. L. Narasu, a big name in Tamil and Telugu films, is another South Indian producer to launch a Hindi film. His first Hindi film is titled "Sitaron Se Aagey" and features Ashok Kumar, Vyjayantimala, Johnny Walker, etc. Being directed by Gyan Mukerji, the picture contains music by S. D. Burman, lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri and dialogue by Vrajendra Gaur. One-fourth of the picture is already complete, while a good bit of footage is expected to be canned during the last ten days of May.

### PUSHPA PICTURES (Bombay)

Having been shot and canned in record time under the supervision of Producer A. A. Nadiadwala who has become another of our few fastest producers, "Inspector" is now ready for release and will mount the Imperial screen after the current programme there. Featuring Ashok Kumar, Geeta Bali, K. N. Singh, Pran, Achala Sachdev and others, "Inspector" is directed by Shakti Samanta and carries a popular musical score by Hemant Kumar. Meanwhile, Producer A. A. Nadiadwala is taking two new pictures on the sets. One is a mythological tale titled "Ayodhya-Pati" and featuring Usha Kiran, Abhi Bhattacharya in the main roles, and the other is "Guest-House" featuring Ashok Kumar, Madhubala, Shyama, etc. "Ayodhya-Pati" is to be directed by the veteran S. Fatehlal, while the direction of "Guest-House" is assigned to Shakti Samanta. The 'muhurt' ceremony for both the pictures was performed at Kardar Studios on 19th April.

### DELIGHT PICTURES PRIVATE LTD. (Bombay)

Producer Chimanlal Trivedi has nearly completed "Rupkumari" and "Dev Danav", his two ambitious entertainers for 1956. Both the pictures feature Shakila, Mahipal and Chandrashekhar in the leading roles, and both carry a musical score by S. N. Tripathi. Reports credit both the pictures with a lot of entertainment value.

### SHRIRANGAM (Bombay)

Producer-director Amiya Chakrabarty is working hard on his new picture "Kath Putli", and is taking no chances about 'Kath

Putli" being a worthy successor to such Amiya Chakrabarty hits as "Daag", "Patita" and the recent one "Seema'. For the leading roles in "Kath Putli", Amiya has selected Vyjayantimala and Balraj Sahni. The music has been entrusted to Shankar and Jaikishan.

**MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)**

Producer-director Mehboob has shot more outdoor and indoor scenes for his forthcoming prestige picture "Mother India", a giant-size production in Gevacolor featuring Nargis, Raj Kumar, Sajjad, Jillobai, etc. Recently Producer Mehboob shot a flood scene at Mehboob Studios and those who saw it aver that it is something unusual in spectacular entertainment. Meanwhile, "Paisa-Hi-Paisa", starring Kishore, Shakila, Mala Sinha, Zul Vellani, etc., and directed by Mehrish, is getting ready for release.

**RATAN JYOTI (Bombay)**

With "Sheikh Chilli" ready and awaiting release, Producer-writer Pandit Indra is these days busy with his next, "Noor-e-Nazar". Featuring Shyama, Mahipal, Sulochana, Kammo, Venus, Agha and others, "Noor-e-Nazar" is an emotional tale set in Arabia and what Pandit Indra knows about that land will soon be seen on the screen. The picture is directed by veteran Gunjal and carries a musical score by Chitragupta. People who have watched the progress of the picture say that between them Pandit Indra and Gunjal have packed more entertainment into the picture than one could wish.

**RAGHUVIR CHITRA NIKETAN (Bombay)**

Producer-director C. Raghuvir's mammoth mythological "Hari Har Bhakti" was scheduled for release in Bombay towards the end of April at the Central. The picture features Asha Mathur, Trilok Kapoor, Shahu Modak, Vivek, Durga Khote, etc. The story is by M. Kalelkar, while the music is provided by K. Datta.

**DESH CHITRA (Bombay)**

Vinita Butt is the latest addition to the cast of "Nirvana", the exciting story of the celebrated courtesan Vasavadatta, which Producer Dewan Sharar is producing in Technicolor. Other names in the cast are Vyjayantimala—who plays Vasavadatta—Abhi Bhattacharya, David, Pran, Gope, Manmohan Krishna, Naina, Venus, etc. Jaya Gopal directs the picture, while C. Ramchandra composes the music.

**SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)**

Producer-director M. Sadiq has almost completed "Chhoo Mantar", his latest mirth and music-filled entertainer. Led by Shyama and Johnny Walker, the cast includes Anita Guha and Jagirdar, while Karan Dewan appears as a guest artiste. O. P. Nayyar provides the music, Azm writes the dialogue for a story by M. Sadiq himself, while Minoo Billimoria cranks the camera.

**ALANKAR CHITRA (Bombay)**

Producer K. H. Kapadia and Director Shankar Mukherji have completed more reels of "Baarish", a thrilling tale of love and adventure told with suspense and punctuated with laughter. "Baarish" has an impressive cast comprised of Dev Anand, Nutan, Jagdish Sethi, Lalita Pawar, Gope and Kumkum. The story is by Gyan Mukerji, music is by C. Ramchandra, while Producer Kapadia himself cranks the camera.

**FAMOUS PICTURES LTD. (Bombay)**

Director Sarvottam Badami has made good progress with "Pyar Ka Geet", a musical romance which features Shashikala, Daljit, Jeevan, David, Nigar Sultana, Leela Chitnis, etc. Husnlal, Bhagtram provide the music, Baij Sharma writes the dialogue and the screenplay, while Tanvir Naqvi contributes the lyrics. The picture is expected to be ready soon.

**SUPER PICTURES (Bombay)**

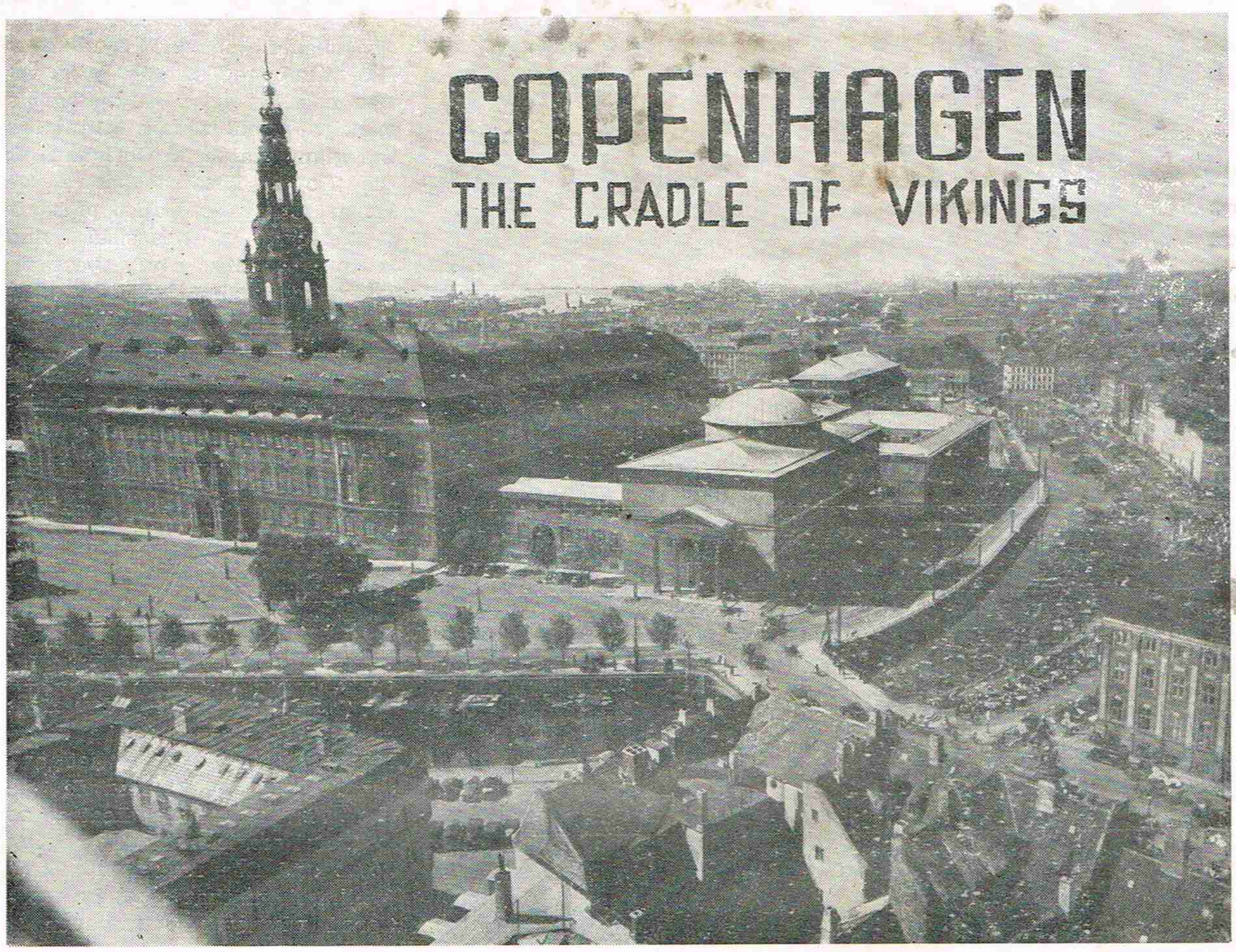
Producer-director Aspi is reported to be making "Shirin Farhad" with the same zeal with which Farhad dug the canal. Featuring Madhubala and Pradeep Kumar as the classic pair of lovers, "Shirin Farhad" carries a musical score by S. Mohinder and songs by Tanveer. Producer Aspi expects it won't be long before the picture reaches the screen as a rare emotional portrayal of a classic love story.

PUSHPA PICTURES 246, Famous Cine Bldg., Haines Road, Mahaluxmi.

**NUTAN—**

*Does the present say what shape the future is going to take ? Youth has some excitingly buxom angles and Nutan has quite a few of them. Meet her breaking new hearts in "Baarish", a romantic tale directed by Shankar Mukherji, produced by Alankar Chitra and distributed by Kishendas Chhabra & Co.*

# COPENHAGEN
## THE CRADLE OF VIKINGS



**Once a small fishing village, Copenhagen is now the largest city and capital of Denmark, and one of the most handsome cities in Europe. The picture shows the Christiansborg Castle which houses the Danish Parliament. The castle is situated in Slotsholm, a part separated from the rest of the city by an artificial canal.**

HAMLET, the Prince of Denmark, is known to everyone, but Denmark, the country, is known to very few. And yet Denmark exists, while Hamlet existed only in Shakespeare's imagination. That is, of course, a glorious example of the triumph of literature over history and geography. But in this age of travel, tourism and Panchsheela, it is good to know an ancient fact like Denmark alongside an immortal fiction like Hamlet.

Denmark is an ancient fact of history but a tiny item of geography and is consequently not easily spotted on the world map. Denmark proper consists of the Jutland peninsula, which forms a tiny protrusion on the continental Europe, the islands of Zealand (Sjaelland), Funen (Fyen), Lolland, Falster, and Bornholm, and 500 other islands, 400 out of which provide the Danes only the spiritual satisfaction of belonging to them, but no practical benefit. These 400 islands are uninhabited. All these territories combined provide an area of 16,576 sq. miles, which is only about twice the size of Wales, and indeed a modest chunk appropriated by a race on God's wide earth. But then 4,200,000 people, which is Denmark's population, shouldn't need much more room. That the Danes still complain of being a densely populated country shows that they do not take a good look around them.

Though the Danes have dug their teeth into another vast chunk of earth, that happens to be more a case of freezing the teeth than of filling the stomach. The name of that cold bite is Greenland, which, with an area of 840,000 sq. miles, is the world's largest island. But being next to the North Pole with a predominant area inside the Arctic Circle, Greenland is one big cold and frozen affair and only a little over 24,000 souls live there, out of whom Danes are only 500. Another outlying possession of Denmark is a group of 18 islands, called the Faroe Islands, situated between the northern tip of Scotland and Iceland.

When one puts the magnifying glass over the tiny Denmark one finds it quite an interesting country. It is the smallest of the Scandinavian countries and yet unlike its neighbours, it has no mountains. It is a low-lying land with its flatness gently broken by green little, sloping hills and the highest point in the country is only 564 feet above the sea-level. The land is generally fertile and over 75% of the area is under cultivation. And corn-growing and cattle-breeding have been the principal occupations of the Danes since ancient times, apart from being the country's chief export industries now.

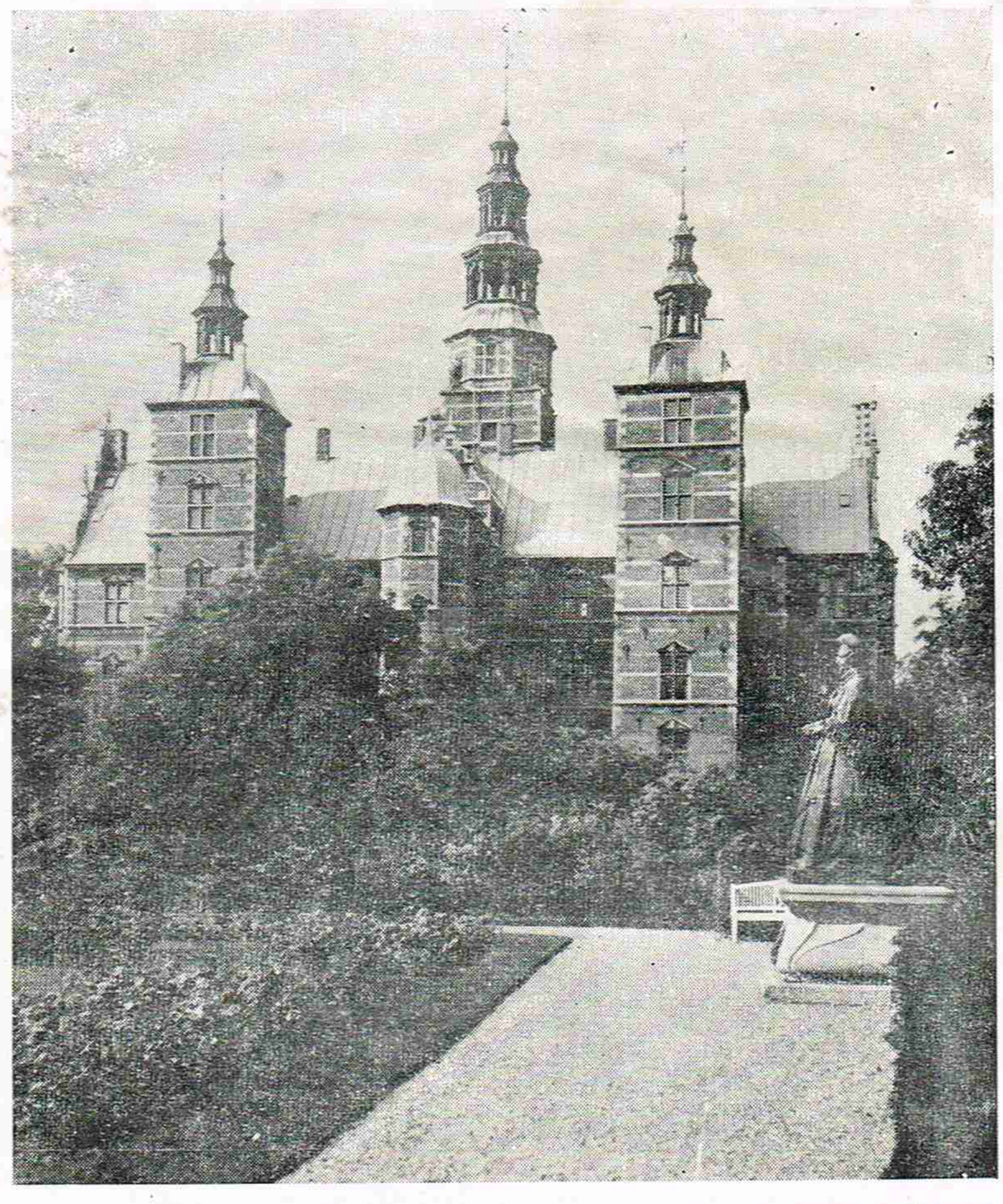
But there was a time when Denmark did not export bacon or eggs but terror. That was the time when the outside world first came in contact with Danes and the world's first impression of Danes was an unpleasant one. Whatever they might have been doing before, Danes turned into Vikings and sea-rovers around the beginning of the 9th century and practised plunder and piracy with such fierceness and regularity and on such a big scale that they drove terror into the whole of Europe. Vikings ravaged France and conquered Normandy. They made repeated attacks on Britain, beginning as grab-and-run plunderers and then developing into settlers. Vikings were not all Danes but they were the first to begin the raids. In 878 A.D., the Vikings had gained control of a part of England and by 1013 England had been conquered by the Danish King Sweyn (Svend Forkbeard) who died soon after, leaving England to be ruled by his famous son, Canute the Great.

### INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE

Danes were ultimately thrown out of England but during the three centuries that the Viking period covered, 9th to the 11th century, as well as during the following couple of centuries, the term 'Dane' denoted terror throughout Europe. How much was the terror can be realized from the fact that a new phrase was added to the Litany which said: "From the fury of the Dane, Good Lord, deliver us."

That was the Dane during the Viking period. After persistent efforts, however, the frightened Europe succeeded in making the Dane more civilized and in bringing him under the fold of Christianity. The Dane then marched along the road of history in a more methodic way, witnessing the usual ups and downs. Denmark tried to hold sway over other Scandinavian countries and for centuries was involved in numerous wars and alliances with Norway and Sweden. Both Norway and Sweden were ruled by Danish kings for long stretches of time punctuated by breaks and secessions, but ultimately both the countries pulled away from Denmark's unpleasant embrace.

The modern Denmark is a distant cry from the Denmark of Vikings and is an industrious nation of hard-working and hospitable people. And one has only to go to Copenhagen to find the proof. Copenhagen, or Koebenhavn as the Danes call it, is the capital of Denmark, the principal town, and the chief port. Situated on the eastern end of the island of Zealand, Copenhagen faces the little channel that sep-



**Rosenborg Castle in the King's Garden, Copenhagen. Built between 1608-17 by Christian IV, the Castle now serves as a museum housing the treasures of Danish kings, while the garden around is now a public park.**

arates Zealand from the southern part of Sweden and is called the Sound. And the Sound excites one's imagination because the moment one enters it from the Kattegat Sea, one gets a glimpse of the famous Kronborg Castle of Elsinore which Shakespeare made the scene of "Hamlet".

Copenhagen is actually spread out on two islands and while the greater part is in Zealand, a small but more modern-looking part occupies the north of the island of Amager, with Langebro and Knippelsbro, the two bridges, connecting the two islands. Copenhagen is a renowned, pleasant and picturesque town. A mere fishing village in 1167 when Bishop Absalon built a citadel there, it became Denmark's capital in 1443 and today looks a glittering and charming place with its palaces and spires, parks and promenades, busy streets and pleasant buildings. And there are a host of eye-filling sights in Copenhagen.

Among the palaces, there is the beautiful Renaissance Castle of Rosenborg which is now a museum containing the treasures of Danish Kings. The Castle was built by Christian IV and provided with a fine garden which is now a public park. There is the Royal Palace at Amelienborg, where the Royalty lives. Consisting of four palaces in rococo style, the Royal Palace attracts many who come to see the changing of the Royal Guards. And then there is the Frederiksborg Palace, 25 miles from Copenhagen. There is also the Christiansborg Palace in Slotsholm which is actually the seat of the government and accommodates the Folketing (Parliament), the Supreme Court, the Royal State Rooms, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among the churches are the St. Saviour's Church and the Grundtvig Church. The former is remarkable for its spiral staircase winding round the spire and leading to the gilt ball at the top, while the Grundtvig Church has an architectural fascination all its own.

Other items of interest in Copenhagen include the Town Hall; the huge Town Hall Square; Kongens Nytorv, Copenhagen's principal public square containing the giant statue of Christian V; the Royal Theatre, where the Royal Corps de Ballet presents a festival of classical and modern ballets every year in May; Ostergade, the fashionable shopping centre; the Thorvaldsen Museum, named after the famous sculptor and containing some of the finest specimens of Thorvaldsen's art; the cathedral church, the Vor Frue Kirke, where Thorvaldsen sculpted the famous figures of Christ with the 'Twelve Apostles'; the University of Copenhagen; the National Museum; the Zoological Gardens; the Glyptotek or the gallery of sculpture; and Tivoli, the lovely pleasure garden to which Copenhageners throng every day from May to September to be entertained by open air ballet and cabaret shows, promenade orchestras, pantomime theatre, as well as scenic railways, flying boats and fine restaurants. And another item that must be mentioned whenever Copenhagen is described, is "The Little Mermaid", the character made famous by Hans Christian Andersen and immortalized in bronze by E. Eriksen, traditionally waiting for her prince and always greeting the visitors to Copenhagen's harbour from the Langelinie promenade.

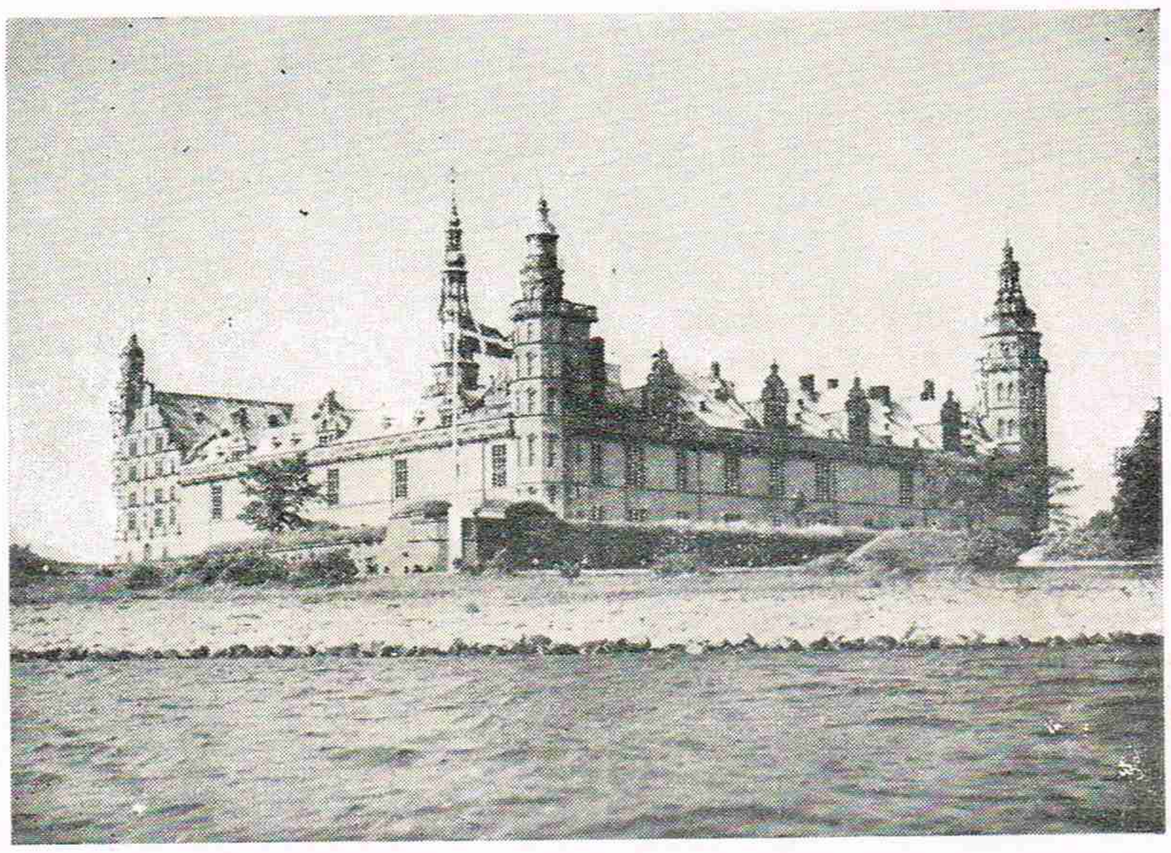
### TRADITIONAL CHARM

Copenhagen has fine hotels, some of the luxury ones being Hotel d'Angleterre, Hotel Alexandra, Palace Hotel and Hotel Terminus. Good, strong Danish beer and Cherry Heering liqueur are served everywhere but a Danish speciality is "smorrebrod" or open sandwich which the Danes claim to know how to prepare in a hundred different ways.

Away from Copenhagen but still in Zealand are other interesting tourist spots like the Castle of Sorgenfri, the Fredensborg Castle, the royal family's summer residence, and of course the Kronborg Castle near Elsinore where in the Castle courtyard special festival performances of "Hamlet" are held and where famous actors like Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud and Robert Breen have already played the problem Prince in the original setting. In South Zealand, an item worth seeing is the Storstrom Bridge that connects Zealand with Falster. Having a length of 10,535 feet i.e. two miles, a headway of 85 feet, a carriageway and a railway, it is the longest bridge in Europe.

Compared with Copenhagen, which including the suburbs has a population of 1,168,340, i.e. about one fourth of the entire population of Denmark, other towns in Denmark are small. But many of them are wrapped

**Kronborg Castle at Elsinore, the famous scene of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and now an immortalised name. Built by King Frederik II between 1574 and 1584 on the remains of a 12th century fortress, Kronborg, situated by the Sound, was useful in earlier days for collecting the Sound toll—fee the Danes exacted from every ship wishing to enter the Baltic. Special performances of "Hamlet" are now staged in the castle courtyard every summer.**



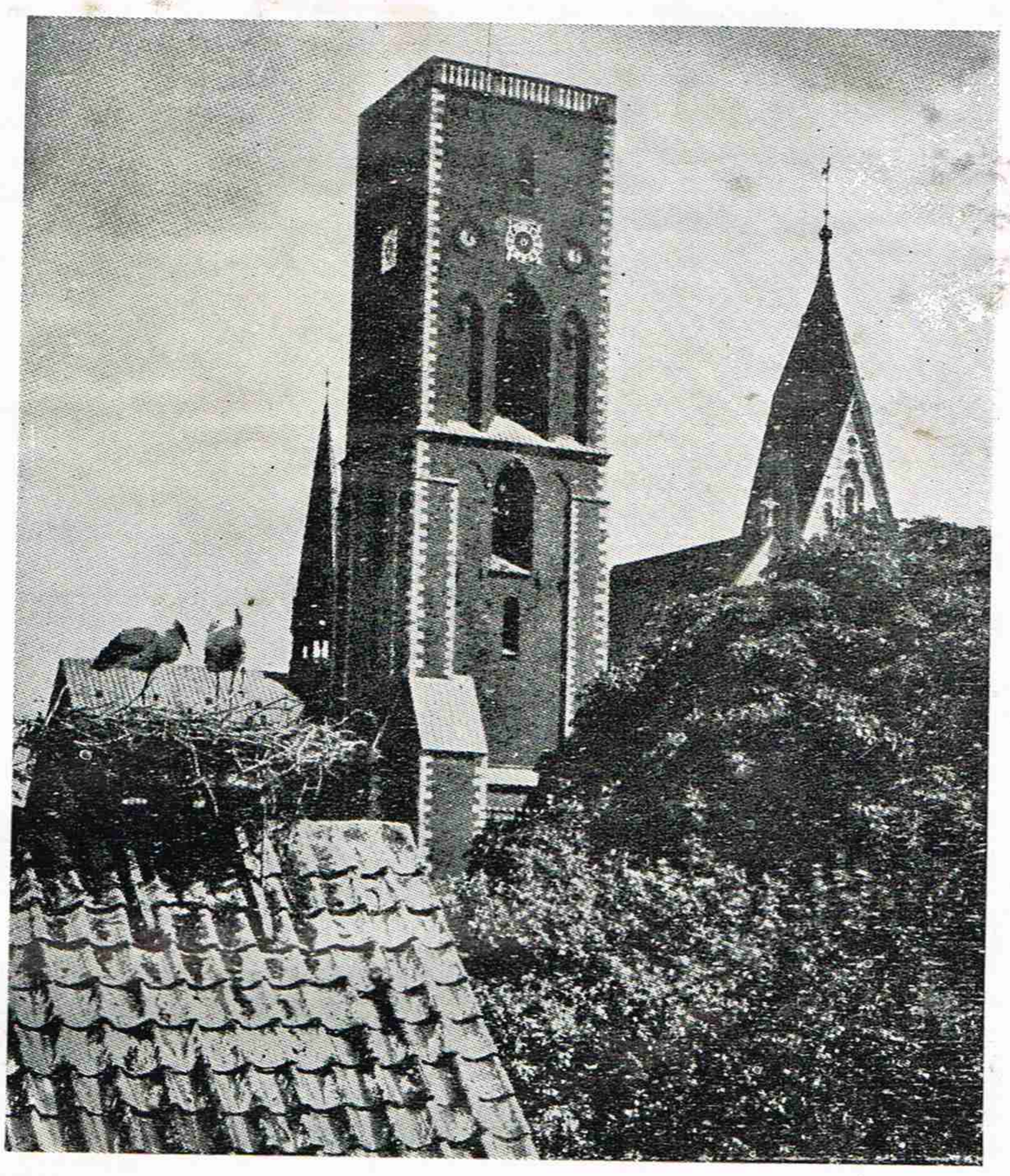
in tradition and a quaint charm, telling something more and essential about Denmark, and one with the spirit of adventure may well visit some of them. There is Odense, the chief town of the island of Funen. Odense has become famous as the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, the internationally-known and loved writer of fairy tales. In Odense, the childhood home of the great writer and the Andersen museum deserve a visit, There is Ribe in Southern Jutland. A typical old Danish market town, Ribe still looks medieval, though pleasant, with its narrow streets, old houses and a much older cathedral. Ribe is famous for its storks which fly back to the town during the summer and enliven the roofs with their nests and with their "talking away in Egyptian" as Hans Andersen once wrote.

Travelling across Denmark doesn't take much time because the total length of the country is about 225 miles and total breadth some 280 miles. But with the sea all around it, seeping into it and breaking it into big and small islands, ferry has sometimes to be used during the journey. Denmark has been called 'the land of the sea' and the Danes of course have always been excellent seamen. Shipbuilding is one of their important industries today, while, with the free port of Copenhagen commanding the Sound, they hold the key to the Baltic.

### MONARCHY LTD.

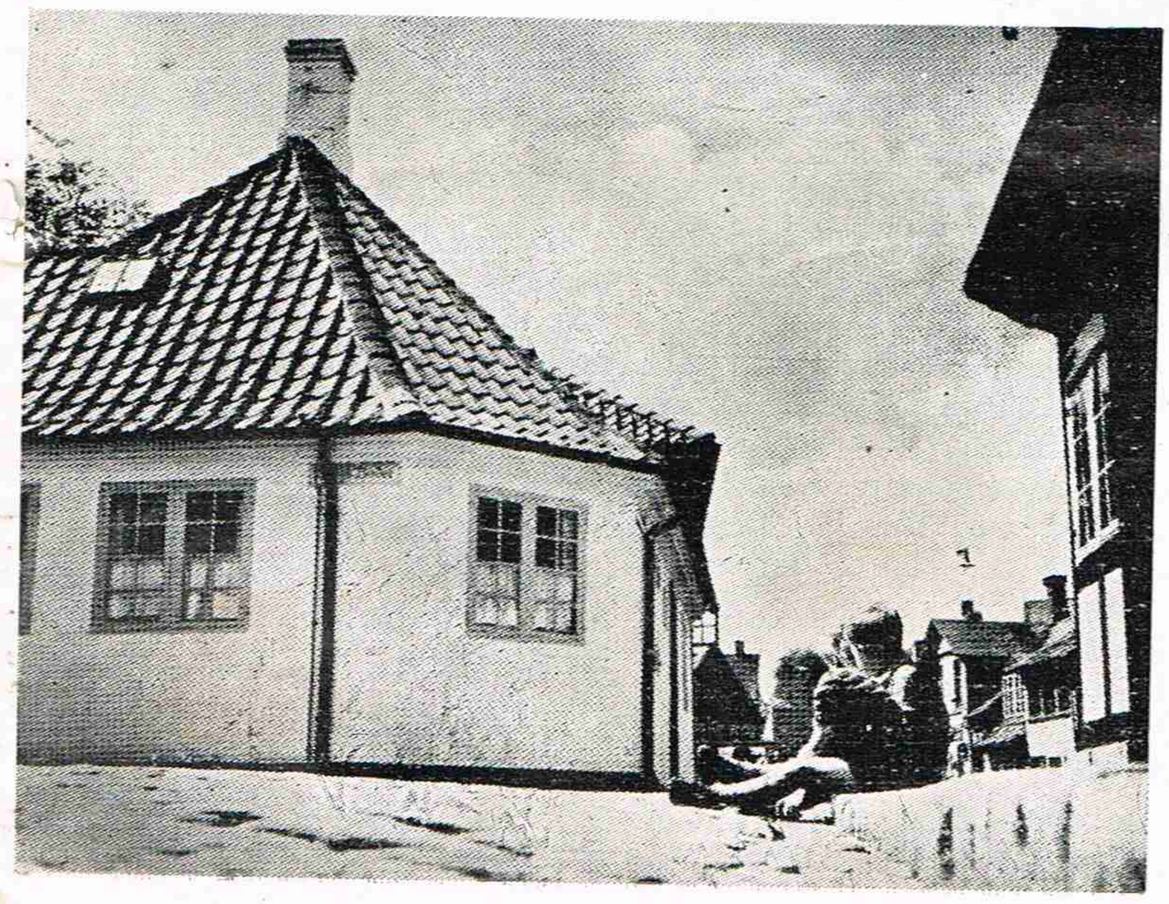
Education in Denmark has been compulsory since 1814. The Dane is literate and curious to learn but cares little for international politics. He seems to be happy with his country's monarchical democracy and happier since 1953 when the old Rigsdag (Parliament), consisting of the Folketing (Lower House) and the Landsting (Upper House,) was reduced to a single-chamber legislature called the Folketing.

The Dane does his work with his heart in it and enjoys driving to his work on a bicycle, which is the most commonly used vehicle in Denmark. The motor vehicle is no less used. There are about 250,000 motor vehicles including some 160,000 private cars. That gives Denmark, in proportion to its population, more motor vehicles than any other country in Europe except France and Britain. Of telephones, there are 625,000 in Denmark, which means one telephone to every second family. And with some 5000 km. of railways, Denmark's railway net rates as very highly developed compared with other countries. In aviation, the Danish aviation company is one of the world's oldest, while the Kastrup airport near Copenhagen is the aviation centre of Northern Europe.



**That tower and spire belong to the cathedral at Ribe—one of the oldest and finest Scandinavian cathedrals in the oldest Danish town. And storks are the summer symbol of Ribe. They perch their nests on roofs all over Ribe and when a Ribe woman says the stork has landed in her house, it doesn't necessarily mean she has become a mother.**

**In this house in Odense was spent the childhood of a cobbler's son who later became Hans Christian Andersen, one of the greatest writers of fairy tales. Now thousands every year go to Odense to see this house and the museum dedicated to the memory of the man whose stories are loved by children throughout the world.**



Politically, Denmark, which remained neutral in the first World War and tried to remain neutral in the Second World War, has swung from Neutrality to NATO. And the chief reason is, the Dane says, his bitter experience of Hitler who treated a signed and sealed non-aggression pact with Denmark like a toilet paper and invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940, without batting an eye. The Dane suffered the brutality and humiliation of Nazi occupation till May 5, 1945, and he now believes in preserving his freedom through military alliances. And conscription has been the traditional basis of the country's defence organization since last 100 years.

With its form of government being "limited monarchical" and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church being the State Church, there is nothing very inspiring about the Danish Constitution or its politics, but there is one provision in Denmark's Constitution which is rather interesting. It is the provision which, introducing a system of referendum, lays down that at the request of one-third of the Folketing members, a Bill (excepting Money Bills) that has been passed by Parliament may be referred to the electorate for final decision. An ordinary majority of the electors decides the issue, provided that at least 30 per cent of the electorate vote against the Bill to make it rejected. A constitutional provision like that would be worth trying in the "brute-majority democracy" of India.

Anyway, let us watch the progress of the Danes in this new phase of NATO instead of Neutrality. But whatever political complexion it wears, Denmark should always remain the pleasant land of the sea, the lively land of beer and smorrebrod, of butter and cheese, of spires and palaces, of smiling, hard-working people and the imagination-stirring Elsinore. And Copenhagen should continue to be not only 'Merchants' Haven' as its name signifies, but a tourists' little heaven on earth.

**They raise their arms only to expose more armament. Whatever pose they take women always remain dangerous. Shyama seems to have decided to make mince-meat of someone in "Sheikh Chilli", an entertaining romance produced by Pandit Indra and directed by Ramchandra Thakur for Ratan Jyoti.**

### GANDHIAN ECHO

Every day some incident or the other in Alabama, U.S.A., resulting in persecution of the Negroes by the whites is taking iron deeper into the souls of the tough American Negroes. They are more than determined to fight back the whites to keep the spirit of democracy alive and the man behind this struggle is a middle-aged pastor, Martin Luther King (Jr) popularly known as "Alabama's Gandhi". Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings, Martin firmly believes in non-violence and satyagraha to achieve his goal of equality for all.

Martin is now on bail. He was arrested some time ago for organizing a bus boycott in Montgomery, capital of Alabama, a southern state of U.S. Negroes prefer to walk now rather than submit to Jim Crowism in buses. And the bus operators who have lost good business are trying to invoke the strike law in Alabama to arrest "walkers" for "organized disruption of business".

Writing on the segregation issue in "Reporter", even novelist William Faulkner seems to be having a cock-eyed view of it when he says, "But there is no middle ground and if people like me have got to choose, then I am on the side of Mississippi. I would fight for Mississippi against the United States even if it meant going into the streets to shoot Negroes". That is white heat.

And still we like to believe we are living in democratic times!

### ONE MORE GANDHI

The theory of non-violence popularized by Mahatma Gandhi in India during his freedom fight with the British is claiming more and more recruits.

Apart from an 'Alabama Gandhi', we now hear of a 'Sicilian Gandhi', the 35-year old Danilo Dolci of Palermo, also called the "Apostle of the Poor", who was recently arrested because he led 200 unemployed men to repair a public mule-track near Palermo.

Leading intellectuals like Alberto Moravia, Carlo Levi, Iznanio Silone and some top lawyers have formed a national committee for Dolci's defence. Dolci was accused of "invasion of public soil, outrage to a police official, instigation to disobedience, resistance to the police and holding an unauthorized public meeting".

The prosecutor asked Dolci to pay a fine of 16,400 lires.

### PILLARS OF CIVILIZATION

A most hateful aspect of the social system of ancient Greece and Rome was the slavery practised by these countries with a cold callousness. Slaves were then articles of commodity to be disposed of at the sweet will and pleasure of the all-powerful master. With the rise of Christianity, slavery gradually disappeared, for man became conscious of the simple philosophy that all human beings are equal in the eyes of God. In later times, Abraham Lincoln did his bit in abolishing slavery in the U.S. but in 1956, strangely enough, the Portuguese seem to be practising it in their African colonies of Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and the islands of San Thome and Principe, with cowardice and impunity so characteristic of this race. Human labour in these colonies is exploited in an inhuman manner for the benefit of Portuguese capital investments there.

This information has been published in a document by the U.N.O. and the I.L.O. The report on forced labour is based on a memorandum submitted by the Anti-Slavery Society in London and was compiled in pursuance of a resolution by the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

The U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour found in 1953 that the Portuguese Colonial Government of Mozambique had made an agreement in 1928 with the Union of South Africa for the recruitment of 100,000 African labourers in a year in Mozambique for work in the gold and coal mines in South Africa, at a fee of 35 shillings per labourer.

So the Portuguese form of slavery is even worse than the slavery of medieval times, for here a labourer is not bought but hired from the State. Consequently the employer doesn't care to look after him in case of sickness or disability or death, for he can get a replacement from the Colonial Government.

It is a shameful blot on modern society. And yet even a powerful world organization like the U.N.O. is helpless where

the cruel Portuguese are concerned.

### CRIMINALS BOTH

Major General Pratap Singh Gaekwar of Baroda, 47, secured in Bombay a divorce from Sita Devi, 41, his second wife, on grounds of adultery.

The ex-Maharaja of Baroda according to English newspapers, is said to be one of the world's richest men with his fabulous collection of jewels, a posh string of fashionably-bred horses, houses, palaces, etc.

In spite of the divorce, the Gaekwar is still restless because the ownership of $ 8 million worth of jewellery has not yet been thrashed out with Sita Devi. Said the Gaekwar, "I've been taken for a mug".

Sita Devi has filed a countersuit for divorce in Paris where she lives. Married for 13 years, they have one son, Prince Sayajirao. Sita Devi's hobbies are smoking cigars and wearing costly jewellery.

We'll soon know who is the mug in this Sita-Pratap Singh mix-up.

### CUTS BOTH WAYS

Elizabeth Maytag Revykuk, the heiress of a $ 5,000,000-washing-machine fortune, filed a $ 1,500,000 damage suit on well-known lady psychiatrist, Dr. Flanders Dunbar, in New York.

Elizabeth accused the doctor of revealing her "innermost secrets" disclosed nine years ago to Dr. Flanders Dunbar in the course of her consultation, to her brother, one of the estate trustees. Because of Dr. Flanders' "malicious, false and untrue remarks", Elizabeth says she had to spend a lot of money to secure her rightful share. Elizabeth also accused the doctor of "conspiring" with the trustees to deprive her of her fortune.

It looks as if psychiatry is a science that can be used with great effect on the rich!

### BRIDAL WORKROOM

Dr. Marie Stopes, the twice-married 73-year-old British expert on sex and birth control, shocked quite a few Britishers with her original prescription for marital bliss in her recently published volume "Sleep". Dr. Marie Stopes said that the sleeping habits of the British people were going from bad to worse.

This is how Dr. Marie Stopes wanted a married couple to live. "The wife should have a room with a double bed and the husband . . . . . a bedroom to himself for general use, keeping the wife's bedroom a romantic place". Again, "it is comparatively unimportant whether the head or the feet are at the north end of the bed, but it is very important that the body should lie south-north or north-south. Dr. Stopes' opinion on twin beds is, "An invention of the devil, jealous of married bliss".

In India where it is difficult for a married couple to rent even one room, the Stopes' prescription is entirely out of reach. And yet, Indians don't seem to be any the worse for it.

### WEEKLY CRIME

The Norwegian Government will start a new scheme of collecting income tax from its citizens from 1957. It will collect taxes on weekly salaries instead of demanding a lump sum payment for a 12-month period. This new scheme necessitates the employment of 800 more tax officials, nearly a 25% increase on the present total.

In 1956, the Norwegians will be paying income tax on their earnings of 1955. And next year they will be paying on their current earnings.

It is too early to predict how far this scheme will be successful. But one thing is sure, the income tax authorities can catch you by the neck once a week instead of once a year. Isn't that a gain?

### BUDDING REBELLION

While Soviet leaders like Nikita Khrushchev, Anastas Mikoyan and others have been busy denouncing their one-time 'god' Stalin on the political front, the Soviet press is equally agitated over the increase in juvenile delinquency in Soviet Russia.

These tough youths called "stilyagi" are usually the sons of well-to-do parents. They grow long hair in defiance of the Soviet "crop headed" fashion, drink excessively, do blackmarketing of western jazz records and other anti-social offences.

But in Soviet Russia everything has to be given a political complexion and the word 'nihilism' is being applied to the anti-social behaviour of these delinquents, whether at the lower level or the higher level of society.

The Komosomol Militia is taking active measures to put down these rowdy youths.

### LIFE SQUEEZER

Britain's chief hangman Albert Pierrepoint, 45, quit his part-time job when the House of Commons decided to abolish the death penalty for murder on February 16, 1956.

Albert will devote all his working hours now to The Rose And Crown, his pub near Blackpool. Albert's parents, grandparents and great grandparents were connected with the gallows for the last 85 years.

The family must have witnessed quite a few rivers of blood during those years. So we can well imagine Albert's disgust with his job.

### COMMUNIST SCIENTIST

Madame Irene Curie-Joliot, well-known physicist and daughter of the famous scientists, Pierre and Marie Curie, who discovered radium, died in Paris at the age of 59.

Married to Frederic Joliot, also a physicist and a chemist, Irene shared the 1935 Nobel Prize for chemistry with her husband for their synthesis of new radioactive elements.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Irene's husband was removed from the directorship of the French Atomic Energy Commission in 1950 because of his membership in the Communist Party. A year later she too lost her job as a director in the Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1953 the French Academy of Science awarded Madame Curie its 300,000-franc Albert of Monaco prize. The American Chemical Society refused to make her a member because she was an active Communist.

Irene seems to have had brilliance of intellect wedded to Communist ideals.

## HIS LENSES

When Don Carlo Gnocchi of Italy died of cancer at the age of 53, he bequeathed to two of his wards, a great legacy — his sight. His two corneas could be used for grafting.

Don Carlo started the Youth Foundation and did much for Italy's maimed children during the last decade of his life including the final act of giving his corneas.

Corneas have to be removed within five hours after death but there is an old Italian law which forbids "acts of profanation and mutilation" of corpses within 24 hours after death. Don Carlo was loved by the people so much that they dare not break his will. Corneas can be used effectively within 5 hours after death.

Meanwhile the two corneal transplantations made have given sight to a 12-year-old boy Angelo Colagrande and another 18 year-old girl. And now Italians have introduced a bill to legalize corneal grafting in the Chamber of Deputies. Let us hope the bill becomes law.

## DOUBLE DEALING YANK

From America where they dread bigamy like plague comes this interesting story of 55-year-old William Mortimer Leigh, a truck driver, who believed in having two sets of everything. So he possessed two wives, two homes, two sets of children and was equally devoted to both the women.

The two homes were situated five miles apart and William's job made it obligatory for him to be absent from each of his homes for certain specifiied periods. William carried on this dual existence for full 16 years but one day made a slip of the tongue in referring to one of his daughters. That set the ball rolling and the two wives at each other's throats.

Now William Mortimer Leigh is serving an 18-month sentence for bigamy in Manchester's Strangeways Prison. "I hope you are satisfied", said William to his two wives.

William has our sympathies. A man who looked after two homes for 16 years needed a better deal from life.

## MERRY WIDOW

Mrs. Louise A. Schaeur, 38, a mother of seven children and wife of a taxi-cab driver, was awarded 50,000 dollars by a jury in Washington, U.S., because Mrs. Josephine Schaeur, the defendant, enticed her husband away from her.

Mrs. Louise Schaeur brought on the alienation action after she divorced her husband. In 1953 her husband, Robert George Schaeur, married Josephine. Josephine, a rich woman, fell in love with Robert when she went in his taxi.

Even a father of seven children is in danger of being seduced in America.

### ADAM'S ROOT

The popular Darwinian theory that man has descended from an ape-like ancestor is being debunked by the discovery of fossil fragments of 12 primitive type "men" who lived in Italy 10 million years ago.

Dr. Helmut de Terra, research associate in Columbia's Department of Geology, and Dr. Johannes Hurzeler of the Basle Museum of Natural History, hope to collect further evidence from the fossils at the Tuscany hills of Italy.

At the moment they have 26 fossil fragments of jaws and limbs from 12 creatures known as "Oreopithecus".

Dr. Hurzeler maintains that Oreopithecus resembles man more closely than do Proconsul and Dyropithecus, two types formerly suggested as the joint man-ape ancestor. Oreo's jaw doesn't jut out, nor do his nostrils.

If further limb bones are discovered, then paleontologists could find out whether Oreo walked upright or not. The discovery of Oreo leads us to believe that man was already developing along his private branch of the family tree 10 million years ago and not from an ape-like ancestor.

### CRADLING THE MOTHER

From April 1st 1956, the period of maternity leave for pregnant women in Soviet Russia has been increased to 112 days. Originally it was 77 days.

A pregnant working woman is now eligible for leave for 56 days before she delivers with full pay and 56 days afterwards. In case of twins or abnormal delivery, the woman gets 70 days after confinement.

The Soviets' concern for the Russian woman is understandable. Don't the women supply man-power to perpetuate their Communist ideology?

### DANGEROUS DENTISTS

Doctors and dentists in London are freely using hypnotism these days on their patients. Recently a 20-year-old girl was placed in one room and the dentist in an adjoining room. The girl went into a trance within a few seconds after the signal to start was given.

Said the dentist, "This test proves that hypnosis can be achieved by telepathy—thought transfer. I do not think distance makes the slightest difference".

This technique has been used by the dentist on several of his patients. To the ignorant, this new method looks very much like a miracle.

### ALL GUESSWORK

According to Dr. George C. Griffith of Los Angeles, the removal of ovaries in women after they have borne a sufficient number of children, is an unhealthy procedure.

Dr. Griffith says that the female sex hormones released by the ovaries possess the capacity to prevent hardening of the arteries. The hormones also promote calcium formation in the bone.

The female sex hormones thus afford a natural protection against heart disease. Dr. Griffith found that women of 40 whose ovaries had been removed had a degree of hardening of coronary arteries not reached by other women until they had crossed their seventies.

### ANOTHER DREAM

Dr. Roger J. Williams, Director of Biochemical Institute, University of Texas and Dr. Alfred Taylor, announced that they had been able to control with "substantial success", the growth of a mouse mammary cancer cultivated in embryonated eggs.

The control of cancer was effected by the combined use of compounds with a moderate increase in temperature.

In a series of cancer-inoculated eggs, 57 out of 58 control embryos had been killed by the 16th day of incubation by tumour growth. The remaining one bore a large tumour. In a parallel series of 140 cancer-inoculated eggs in which treatment was applied, 86 embryos remained alive on the 16th day of which 81 contained mere traces of what may have been viable cancer tissue while in 5 there were no observable traces.

These experiments may some day lead to the stopping of cancer growth in human beings.

### MORE GUESSWORK

According to findings of Drs. Iain and Pamela MacKinnon of London, based on 47 coroners' cases and post-mortem examinations, the entire second half of the menstrual cycle in women, beginning 14 days before the next due period, is said to be more dangerous than the first. Of 23 suicides, 22 happened in the second menstrual phase. Owing to certain cellular changes in the body, many women are prone to commit crimes of violence, suicide and other acts of emotional unstability.

The MacKinnons' advice to high-strung women and those with chronic diseases is to rest more during the second half of the cycle. Major operations should be performed in the first half.

### NOT PAYING

A study made by the National Office of Vital Statistics, the Institute of Life Insurance, in U.S. revealed that 35% of married couples had annual incomes of less than 3,000 dollars. One in every three couples in America set up housekeeping on less than 60 dollars a week.

Some couples in this group lived on farms and raised their own food to live within their budget. 75% of the young couples lived in cities while 20% lived in suburbs and the rest on farms.

One noteworthy fact was, "the proportion of childless couples decreased rapidly with each additional year of marriage".

### UNNECESSARILY WORRIED

Sir Charles Galton Darwin, 68-year-old scientist grandson of Charles Darwin, is very much alarmed at the rate at which the world's population is increasing.

Said Sir Charles Darwin, "In 2000 years there won't even be standing room on the earth. . . . At least two-thirds of the world already is under-nourished. The rapid net population increase means living standards will be brought down within 50 years".

But why worry about 2000 years hence? India is under-


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nourished e[illegible]day with her rapidly-incre[illegible] population and low living standards.

### DEFIES CAMERA

Dr. Ernest Klausberger of the Psychiatric Clinic of Vienna University has invented a special type of camera which can photograph the thought processes of a human brain.

An X-ray camera with a special valve makes it possible for the brain to be illuminated sufficiently for 188 exposures a second. The film can be seen on the screen and gives a "living picture" of the brain at work.

Why not photograph Pandit Nehru's brain at work? Psychiatrists may discover different currents, undercurrents and cross-currents in his feverish brain!

### EGGS TO MATCH

At a poultry fair held in Toronto, Canada, recently, 80-year-old O.P. Johnston proudly demonstrated his "Onto Cana" fowls which produce 200 blue eggs every year.

His efforts at getting the fowls to lay blue eggs date back to 1927. Till 1938 he could not obtain the right pair of chickens for mating. After many experiments in breeding, he at last found the secret, that the colour of the egg depended upon the cock.

These eggs are popular because apart from the taste, they have an aesthetic appeal.

### MIRACLE IN POCKET

Radio Corporation of America has developed the smallest walkie-talkie FM radio which can be put in a shirt pocket or attached to a helmet and yet transmit and receive messages over a quarter-mile range.

The radio weighs 15 ounces and is shaped like a small tobacco tin. The radio is self-contained and self-powered. The Army Signal Corps of U. S. has purchased some of these walkie-talkies for field tests.

### FOLDING PLANES

Goodyear Aircraft Corporation of U.S. has developed a handy model of an aeroplane which cannot fly unless it is blown up.

The wings of the aeroplane are made of a patented rubber-coated nylon fabric and have to be inflated to make them open up to the conventional shape. Other parts of the plane are also made of the same material. One advantage of the plane is that when not required, it can be folded up into such a small space that it can be carried inside a car.

The only parts made of metal are those fixing the pilot's seat and the wheels to the fuselage.

We must import a few of these for our film stars. They can then do the disappearing trick from their cars when caught by the prohibition police.

### IT THINKS

A new high gloss paint with a new thixo-tropic base has been manufactured by a British firm.

This new paint has many advantages over the usual paint because it has the consistency of jelly in the tin but liquefies as soon as it is applied. The paint doesn't run down the handle of the brush when a ceiling is being painted.

The paint is touch-dry in four hours and hardens in eight hours but it will not harden in the tin. The colour remains constant from beginning to end.

### FAST WORK

George T. Eaton of Kodak Research Laboratories said that much progress has been made in the development of high-speed cameras. There are high-speed cameras that record as high as 15 million picture frames a second.

These cameras are used extensively in science and industry. One superfast camera, the Hycon Submicrosecond, has an exposure of 1|10,000,000th of a second. The study of particle motion in blast furnaces is done with the Hycon.

### FOOTPRINTS OF PROSPERITY

A skyscraper with 38 storeys is being constructed in New York. The exterior walls will be built entirely of bronze and glass. Though bronze has been used in interiors, this is the first time that bronze is being utilized for exterior purposes. The area of the proposed bronze surface would cover three regular size football fields.

A skyscraper with exterior walls of stainless steel has already come up in New York. It is owned by an oil company and believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

The Americans are good at experimenting with new things.

### OF MICE AND MEN

Columbia University researchers have found a fine antidote against nerve gases. Called PAM (2-pyridine aldoxime methiodide) it was tested on hundreds of mice exposed to the one of the most deadly nerve gases and then given shots of the compound. Not one mouse died.

Non-poisonous and cheap, the chemical can be prepared easily. It is bound to work on human beings equally well, as they have the same protein structure like mice.

### AIMING HIGH

Scientists working in the U.S. Air Force Cambridge Research Centre, have been able to create a temporary "star" that for a time looked as bright as the planet Venus. The "star" was the result of attempts to unlock "the vast storehouse of energy in the upper atmosphere".

An Aerobee rocket was sent 60 miles above the earth on March 14. It was equipped to release nitric oxide in the upper atmosphere. The gas acts as a catalyst and has the property of bringing two oxygen atoms together to form an oxygen molecule and release light.

This process occurs in the upper atmosphere all the time but the quantity of nitric oxide is so small that the light produced can be seen with the help of instruments more sensitive than the human eye.

### NEW KILLER

Dr. Hermann H. Kurzeg, chief of aeroballistic research at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak, has perfected a kind of gun that can dispatch projectiles at 7000 miles per hour.

This "hypervelocity" gun launches projectiles with the help of expanding helium, instead of the conventional gun powder. Helium is packed into the chamber under pressure and then "ignited" by a boiling mixture of hydrogen and oxygen gas.

Dr. Kurzeg, a German physicist, did valuable work during the war, especially on the Nazis' V-2 rocket.

### NO NIGHT "DOOTY"

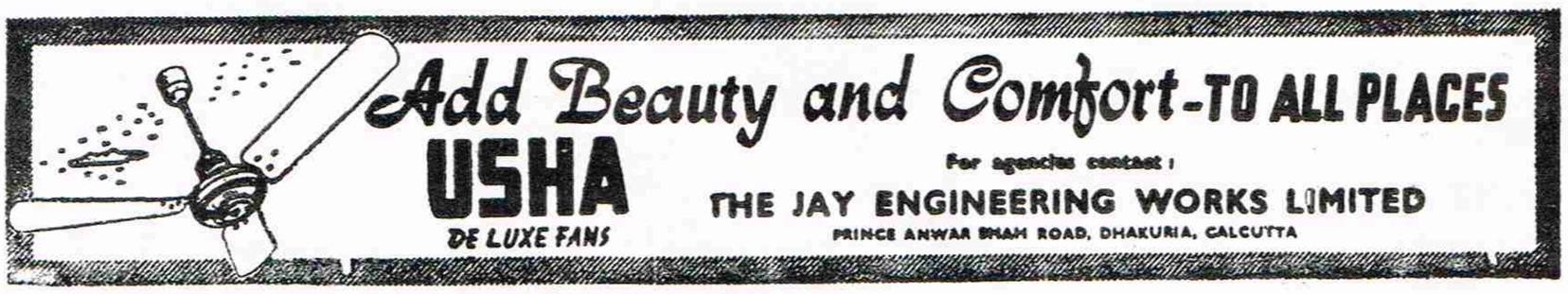
Researchers of the Automobile Manufacturers Association, U.S., have constructed an experimental sun-powered model automobile, using the powerful rays of the sun as the direct source of power.

The 15-inch car has 12 photo-electric selenium cells on its top. The cells convert light into electric power which works a tiny motor propelling the vehicle.

### "NOO" ONES

Doctor Glenn T. Seaborg of California, an authority on elements, says that during the next 15 years, elements 102 to 108 are likely to be stabilized.

Seaborg was the co-discoverer of plutonium. Scientists have so far produced elements up to 101. It is quite likely that elements 106, 107, 108 may decay so rapidly that they can be analyzed only from their radio-activity. These new elements will be produced in a special kind of atom-smasher, called the "hilac"—heavy ion linear accelerator.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*OUR REVIEW*

# "Hatim Tai", Magic For Idiotic Masses

## Picture Without Any Smell Of Imagination

Basant Pictures' "Hatim Tai", photographed in Gevacolor and produced, according to its makers, at a cost of over two million rupees, is evidently one of the most expensive mixtures of magic and mumbo jumbo in celluloid. The narrative comes from the pages of the Arabian Nights and presents a cluttered parade of magic and miracle, jinns and fairies, mermaids and sorcerers, magic wands and crystal balls, and numerous other items of the world of Arabian fantasy.

But though many things have evidently gone into the making of this elaborate hocus-pocus, imagination does not seem to be one of them. And there is hardly anything in it that one did not already fear from Wadia Brothers — the old and enduring stunt-specialists. The whole picture reeks of crudeness and naivete. Sets are big and bizarre but extremely crude. Costumes are various but shabbiness is generally their common feature. The colour is garishly gaudy. The stunts are clumsy and unexciting. The dialogue is dull and heavy as written, and duller and heavier as spoken by most of the artistes. The trick photography is effective in places but consistency is not one of its virtues. Many a trick shot is quite clumsy.

And all this is a pity in a production of this scale. "Hatim Tai" is of course a weird and fantastic tale but it certainly could do with a little imagination and a little artistic grace. It could be less crude and less naive. And Homi could have directed the picture with some intelligence and imagination and J.B.H. could have written a sensible and interesting screenplay. Had they done so they wouldn't have hurt us nor any of the picture-goers. But it seems the Wadia Brothers are reluctant to give us even a little surprise. They insist on showing their familiar limitations and compel us to dismiss "Hatim Tai" as a big and elaborate production which is a bigger piece of crudity, clumsiness and naivete and which simply makes one laugh in most places — all wrong ones — if one does not yield to the picture's frequent inducements to take a cat nap.

### CHIVALROUS CHARACTER

Hatim Tai, the prince of Yaman, is a noble and valiant character who has no troubles of his own and is therefore fond of borrowing those of others. The picture shows him arriving in Muflis Ganj accompanied by his clownish attendant Nazroo and distributing money and clothes among the poor inhabitants. The poor people cheer Hatim but one bearded creature in a corner remains sullen and refuses the gift of gold or clothes. Hatim of course insists on knowing his trouble and learns that the sullen man is Munir Shami, a prince, who has become dejected in life because he cannot marry Husnabanoo, his beloved. Hatim further discovers that Munir cannot marry Husna because her father Barzukh had once cast an evil eye on a visiting fairy named Gulnar and according to some queer code of fairyland justice Gulnar had turned into stone. But before being petrified Gulnar had given Barzukh the curse that his daughter too would turn into stone the moment she would be touched by her husband after the marriage.

That still left Munir free to make love to Husna without marrying her but probably unmarried love was not popular in old Arabia. Hatim therefore inquires if there was a way of lifting that curse and learns that there were seven riddles which if solved would bring the petrified fairy back to life and the curse would be lifted. Hatim then reads the riddles inscribed on a wall in luminous letters and looking very much like the train announcements on the indicator at our Victoria Terminus station. And having memorised the riddles, Hatim sets out to solve them and involve himself in a number of weird adventures. He comes across nymphomaniac nymphs, man-eating jinns, lusty sorcerers and other outlandish items and as he solves each riddle the inscription on that indicator is automatically wiped out, while the petrified fairy begins to revive by degrees. In the end Hatim solves all the riddles as well as bags a fairy who agrees to burn her wings for an earthly life of love with Hatim.

**Lofts are cosy places for youth that wants privacy to be conscious of its growth. Youth delights in feeling its growth and wonders and wonders. So does Nutan in "Baarish", a romantic thriller.**

### ERRATIC MIX-UP

The picture is as good as can be made with a lot of money and ambition but with least imagination and intelligence. The production values are flaunty but clumsy. The sets are quite huge in size and sometimes quite weird in design but they are generally crude and reveal neither much orginality nor much imagination. Colour photography passes muster but the use of colour is tasteless. Sound recording is erratic. The music is poor and familiar while the lyrics are trite. The direction is crude and unimaginative.

No player is called upon to reveal much talent. The artistes are just required to deliver some stilted dialogue and walk through the scenes. Jairaj playing the title role is the most seen mobile item in this hocus-pocus. He manages to look a colourful Arab in colourful costumes. Shakila in the dual role of the fairy who is petrified and the fairy who falls in love with Hatim, looks quite dumb and pretty. The rest can be all spared mention because they don't do anything to attract attention.

In short, "Hatim Tai" is 14,590 feet of magic and mumbo jumbo produced with much money and minimum imagination. The picture may appeal to imbeciles and street urchins but to discriminating audiences it can only strike as a lengthy piece of Gevacolored crudity and naivete.

**HATIM TAI**

| | |
|---|---|
| Producers: | **Basant Pictures** |
| Language: | **Urdu** |
| Screenplay: | **J.B.H. Wadia** |
| Dialogue: | **Hakim Lata, J.B.H. Wadia** |
| Lyrics: | **Raja Mehdi Ali Khan, Mishra, Romani** |
| Music: | **S.N. Tripathi** |
| Photography: | **Anant Wadadekar** |
| Special Effects & Art: | **Babubhai J. Mistry** |
| Sound: | **Minoo Tumpal** |
| Cast: | **Shakila, Jairaj, Naina, B.M. Vyas, Meenaxi, S.N. Tripathi, etc.** |
| Released At: | **Novelty, Bombay** |
| Date of Release: | **16th March 1956.** |

Directed By:
**HOMI WADIA**

*OUR REVIEW*

# "Jayshri", Tale Of Tyranny In Timbuktoo

## Picture With Restricted Appeal

Ratnadeep Pictures' "Jayshri" is a costume tale, familiarly written, mediocrely told and loudly acted. There is nothing new or distinguished about it but there is some entertainment in it for those who like to see whiskered, ranting kings, swashbuckling rebels and tyrannized commoners doing things which are not done any more and which are supposed to have been done in some unspecified past era in an unspecified place.

### AN OLD TALE

There is the king who is saturated with cruelty and tyranny. No reason is adduced for this man's blood-thirsty brutality and even if one had been given, the king couldn't have looked any the less crazy. So that is perhaps a distinct saving of labour. Then there is the noble mother, Karuna, whose brave little son, Ajit, once takes it into his head to hurl a stone at the King's head and is soon condemned to be fed to the lions also bringing death to his father. There is also Ajit's vengeance-ridden maternal uncle, Raghuvir, who decides to play with the King the game of eye for eye and tooth for tooth. He, however, does not know that little Ajit, as was expected, has escaped death and is well looked after.

Raghuvir begins the game by kidnapping the King's only daughter, a little girl called Jayshri whom the King loves immensely thus providing the only evidence of humanity in him. Raghuvir takes Jayshri to his sister Karuna and insists on putting her to death as a revenge for the killing of Karuna's husband and the supposed killing of Ajit. Karuna refuses to be vengeful and to save Jayshri's life from her brother, runs away to find shelter with a sadhu. And now Jayshri soon grows into a maiden, while at the other end Ajit too grows into a youth. And then the two of them meet and fall in love with everybody's real identity still a mystery to each other. But after two or three reels of adventure and excitement everybody recognizes everybody else followed by some sudden changes in the nature of characters, particularly of the King and Raghuvir, and all ends well.

### ERRATIC ALL ROUND

The production values are modest, particular modesty being visible in the sets. Photography is erratic while sound recording is more erratic. The music is interesting here and there. The dialogue is generally a rain of words but there are some scattered hail-stones of wit and brightness. The direction doesn't seem to aim very high and doesn't miss the mark very much.

Nimmi plays the grown-up Jayshri and with her usual talented performance makes the picture greatly tolerable. Pradeep Kumar plays the grown-up Ajit with a face which the two directors could neither lift nor move. Lalita Pawar seems to do her best in the role of the noble mother. Jeevan does his crudest and loudest in the role of the crazy King. Jayant is not bad as the vengeance-ridden Raghuvir. Roopmala, as a comrade-in-arms of Raghuvir, does some uninspiring dancing and unimpressive acting. From the rest Radhakishen, as a minister of the King, speaks some tongue-in-cheek dialogue in his usual shrill manner.

In short, "Jayshri" is a costume entertainer with restricted appeal. It is a pill that can be taken by those who have tried and liked such pills before.

**JAYSHRI**

Producers: **Ratnadeep Pictures**
Language: **Hindustani**
Screenplay & Dialogue: **Mukhram Sharma**
Lyrics: **G. S. Nepali**
Music: **Chitragupta**
Photography: **Arjun Desai**
Sound: **L. J. Bhat, T. K. Dave**
Cast: **Nimmi, Pradeep Kumar, Lalita Pawar, Jeevan, Jayant, Roopmala, etc.**
Released At: **Krishna, Bombay**
Date of Release: **9th March 1956**

Directed By:
**BALCHANDRA SHUKLA & HARSUKH BHATT**

*OUR REVIEW*

# "Aawaz" Does Not Entertain

## Rich Frame Without Good Portrait

A bad story can beat the best of producers. The story of "Aawaz" is clumsy and confused and at times shockingly naive. It is a story to which Mehboob should have never given the green signal. But unfortunately he did and now the financial history of "Aawaz" is likely to be written in red.

The theme of "Aawaz" is poverty — the usual fascination of Zia Sarhady—and it tells about poor people who are good-hearted and rich people who are evil. But whether they are rich or poor, almost all the characters in the picture look eccentric or sometimes plain stupid and at all times unrealistic. And on this story a lot of labour goes waste.

That the picture is a labour of love is evident in practically every frame. It is provided with huge, impressive sets, a generally fine photography and other items of technical competence that obtains in Mehboob Studios. But though these devices dress up the tale a bit, the story in its mumbling, fumbling career goes on tearing at the dress insistent on revealing its inherent inanity. The result is a picture that gives another

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warning to Producer Mehboob that even he cannot be too careful while approving stories for production.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

The story revolves round Bhatnagar, an amiable and ageing employee in a transport company, and his little family consisting of a wife, an unmarried daughter, Bela, and an unmarried son, Kishen. Bhatnagar earns hundred rupees a month while Kishen, a mill worker, brings home eighty rupees a month. The most unimaginative man can realize that this is a poor family but the members of this family themselves refuse to face the fact. In his anxiety to see that their poverty does not instil frustration into his family members, Bhatnagar has resorted to a most odd thing and concocted a tall story that he has some hoarded money kept with a friend which will be used only for Bela's marriage. Bhatnagar's tall story, it seems, is intended to assure his family that they are living a life of privations only out of choice.

But that creates trouble because Kishen thinks it heinous to choose to live miserably when one has money to draw upon. He therefore becomes a chronic grumbler with a touch of dislike for his father. Bela, looking long overdue for a double bed, goes frolicking about the house presumably because she finds her father's story to her advantage.

Now the story turns its attention from poverty to romance and we see the mill-worker keeping a tryst at the beach with a buxom, smartly-dressed, overdue female. After a little bit of romance and some melodrama in which Kishen opposes his parents' bid to collect a dowry from his fiancee's parents, Kishen and his buxom beloved Jamuna unite in wedlock and increase the economic misery in the household.

Bela too finds a lover in Ashok, the son of an old friend of Bhatnagar, whom Bhatnagar gives a job in the same transport company. But the path of their love turns out to be particularly hurdle-strewn. Ashok's parents insist on receiving dowry before allowing their son to marry Bela. Bhatnagar tries to raise a loan from his employer, but the employer, a wily man who had been having labour trouble in his company and who suspected Bhatnagar's innocent sympathy with the workers to be the instigation for trouble, instead of giving the loan gives Bhatnagar the sack. Broken down with worries Bhatnagar becomes sick and demented and soon dies leaving it to Jamuna to keep up that false and stupid story of hoarded money.

And now the story starts getting more depressingly messy. Bela keeps on crying because she cannot marry Ashok without dowry. Ashok keeps on breathing love befor Bela but this yellow, craven lover does not even think of opposing his father's demand for dowry. Kishen gets a son and loses his job and starts demanding that non-existent money from Jamuna which she had averred existed. When Jamuna fails to provide a satisfactory answer he beats her and in turn is beaten by his hysterical


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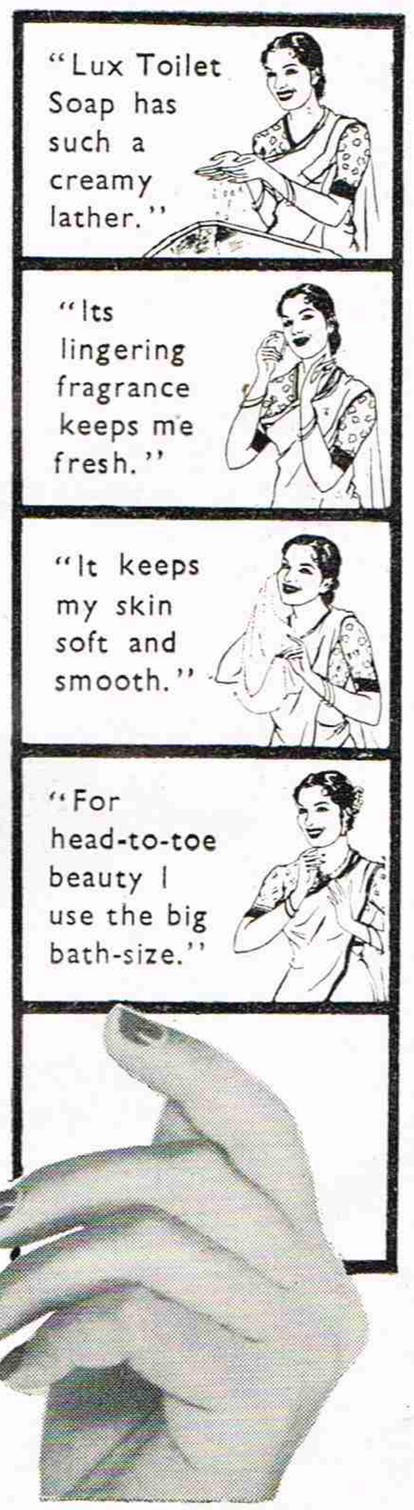
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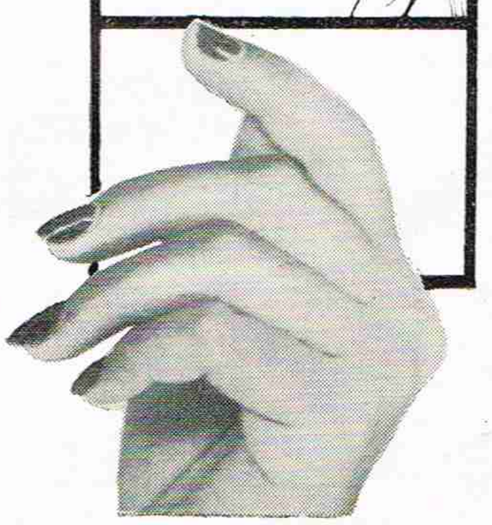

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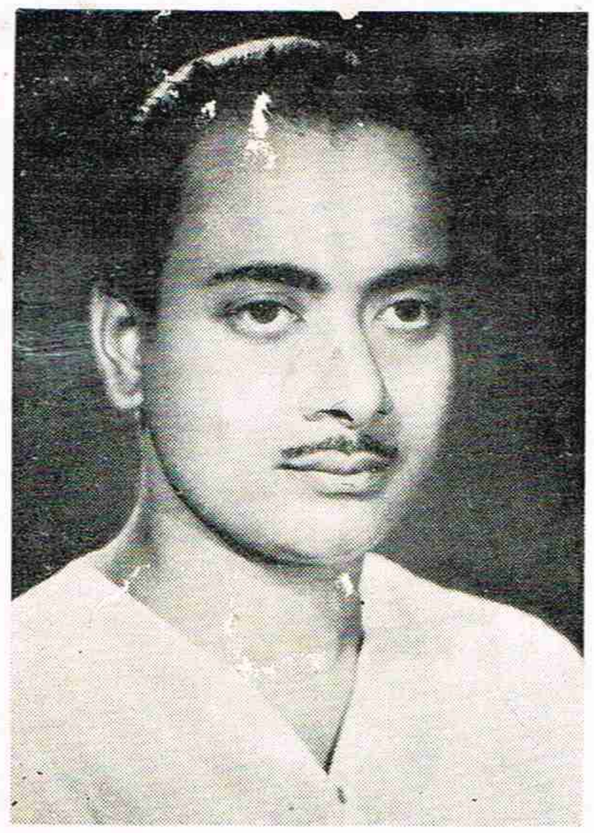


**Mukul Roy, talented brother of Geeta Roy—our popular playback singer, proves a better music director than a producer in "Sailaab", a social theme. He has the natural Bengali flair for moony, emotional music.**

mother. He then takes to drink, runs up a fat bill at the local liquor shop and decides to quit drinking only when the shop-owner has tried to molest his wife and told him in the presence of his wife and mother that he can have more liquor by sending his wife to him.

After this revolting scene, an obvious concession to Prohibition, ground is prepared for another repulsive situation. Jamuna, who had taken up the job of teaching the children of the transport company proprietor, thinks it proper to ask her employer for a 3000-rupee loan so that she may get Bela married. The wily, designing employer readily gives her half the amount and promises to pay the rest after some time. A[illegible] when, with Bela's marriage ceremony held up for want of money, Jamuna goes to him to ask for the rest of the money the lecherous man makes his meaning clear and asks her to surrender her honour. The shocked woman says she has a husband and the rake replies that her husband was as good as dead. When Jamuna points to the child in her arms, he oilily remarks that the child was charming. Then taking Jamuna's child in pawn, he lets her go with the money. After giving the money and getting the marriage ceremony resumed, Jamuna returns to the scoundrel but with a dose of poison down her throat. As Jamuna dies the lusty employer becomes frightened and when Bankey, a friend of the Bhatnagar family, appears on the scene, the rich rake is frightened enough to fall from his balcony. The picture ends with Bela's marriage procession marching along without noticing Bankey carrying the corpse of Jamuna.

### GOOD PRODUCTION VALUES

This is the sordid and depressing story which Producer Mehboob tried to salvage and did not succeed in doing so. In future Mehboob should make sure of a proper foundation for a production rather than waste his time, talents and money in repairs.

The production values are, of course, competent and fine. Sets are appropriate. Photography is generally efficient. Sound is quite well recorded. Lyrics are the usual stuff. The music is agreeable in a couple of songs except in the opening song where a small boy sings with an old man's voice. The dialogue carries the story's faults. The direction is a blend of great fatuity and grand confusion.

On the histrionic side, Nalini Jaywant as Jamuna looks old and gives a performance good only in spasms. Her dialogue in emotional situations is too poorly spoken. Usha Kiran as Bela indicates that her talent is decreasing in proportion to the increase in her bulk. The newcomer Zul Vellani who plays Kishen is another single-boned addition to the list of screen sissies. There is an imitative touch about the way he delivers his dialogue and an ugly touch when he reveals only his lower teeth while speaking. But for a first appearance he seemed quite bold before the camera and though he could not express much he seemed to understand his role. Rajendra Kumar as Ashok both looks stupid and acts stupid. He looks stupid because he tries to look like Dilip Kumar deliberately cultivating visible signs of identification like Dilip's unkempt hair, moony look and slow dragging walk. He acts stupid because he tries to imitate Dilip Kumar and thus loses his own individuality. This boy has possibilities of a successful screen career if he stops imitating others and being stupid. He must be himself, without the stupid Dilip hair and mannerisms, a new face and a new personality of the screen. Nazir Hussein as Bhatnagar gives a very natural performance in a very sympathetic role — easily the best performance in the picture. In the carefree role of Bankey, Anwar's work is good and effective. Leela Chitnis as the shrivelled mother fails to impress much largely due to the silly role. From the rest Murad makes quite a disgusting villain while Mukri provides some much-needed comedy relief.

In fine, "Aawaz" has nothing thrilling for the masses who want entertainment with a kick.

**AAWAZ**

Producers: **Mehboob Productions Ltd.**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story: **Mrs. Henrietta Zia**
Dialogue: **Zia Sarhady, Vajahat Mirza**
Lyrics: **Zia Sarhady, Vishwamitra Adil, Prem Dhavan**
Music: **Salil Chaudhary**
Photography: **Rajendra Malone**
Sound: **Shashikant N. Modi**
Cast: **Nalini Jaywant, Usha Kiran, Anwar, Nazir Hussein, Rajendra Kumar, Zul Vellani, Leela Chitnis, Murad, Mukri, etc.**
Released At: **Liberty, Bombay**
Date of Release: **16th March 1956**

Directed By:
**ZIA SARHADY**

*OUR REVIEW*

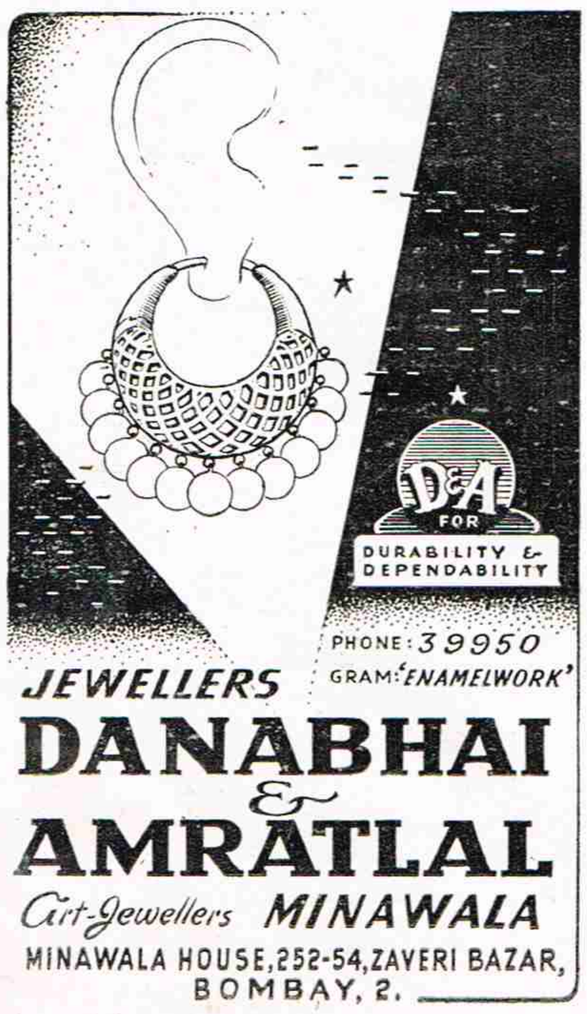
## "Fifty-Fifty" Is Fifty-Fifty Entertainer

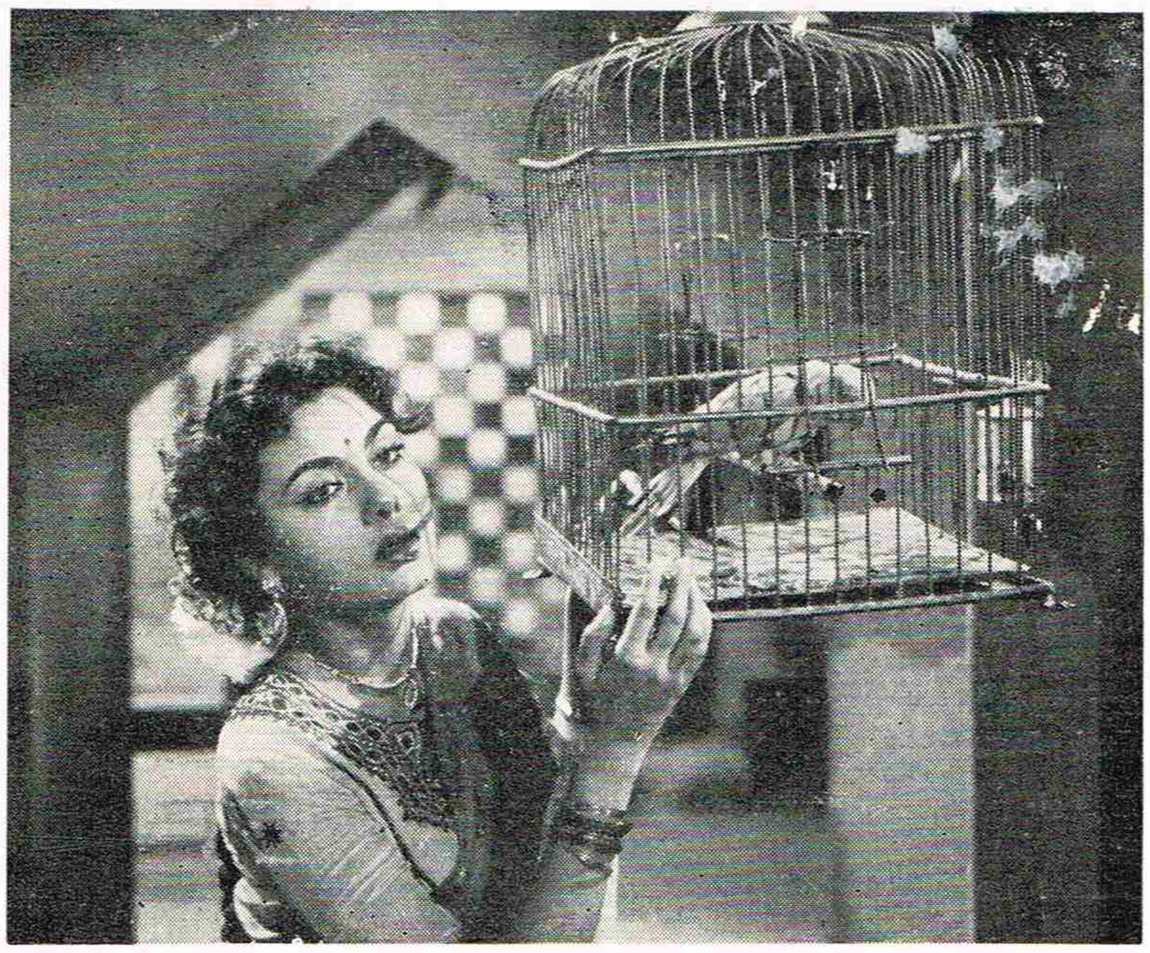
### A Spare-Money-Spare-Time Picture

Roopnagar's "Fifty-Fifty" is a tolerable blend of comedy, intrigue and suspense. The story is fairly familiar and generally unconvincing but it has been handled with just enough intelligence to keep it from turning into another piece of tedium. In spite of its triteness the story manages to provide some interesting situations and particularly in the second half it picks up some pace and generates a modicum of interest. On the whole, the picture emerges as a tolerable entertainer that can be risked by one with spare money and spare time.

### THE USUAL TWINS

Ramesh, an army officer and the son of a millionaire, who had gone to the front in the last war has failed to return and has been listed as missing. During his absence his father has died leaving behind a few million rupees. The trustee of the money is Bhagwandas, apparently waiting for Ramesh to turn up but secretly wishing to swallow the money himself. Bhagwandas finds a way of realizing his wish when he runs into Raju, a young vagabond, who happens to look exactly like the missing Ramesh. Taking Raju to his home Bhagwandas asks Raju to pose as Ramesh and offers him a big reward. But Raju, freshly out of a gang of crooks because of a streak of honesty in him, accepts the proposal only after Bhagwan-





**The parrot-cage is not a novelty to Nimmi, nor is the parrot a stranger. Nimmi has talked with the parrot from her childhood. It was the parrot that told her of the glory that would be hers if she joined the films. The parrot is the conscience-keeper of many women and Nimmi runs to an old friend in "Bhai Bhai", a social theme produced by AVM.**

das agrees to share the gain from the scheme with him on a fifty-fifty basis.

And soon Raju lands at the dead millionaire's house dressed in a military uniform and proclaiming himself as the long lost Ramesh. With Bhagwandas' help Raju's impersonation becomes successful with everybody taking him to be Ramesh, including the old, trusted servant in the house and Nishi, the young niece of Bhagwandas and Ramesh's childhood friend. As deep love develops between Raju and Nishi, Raju starts being troubled by his conscience and by an old crooked associate of his. Raju decides to reveal the truth to Nishi but before he can do so the real Ramesh returns home and Nishi then refuses to regard Raju anything more than a scheming crook.

Determined to clear himself before Nishi and to show her that the chief culprit behind the scheme was her uncle, Raju joins Bhagwandas in yet another intrigue by which Ramesh is dragged to the court as the scheming impostor while Raju sits next to Nishi passing himself off as Ramesh. At the trial poor Ramesh is nearly proclaimed guilty, when Raju gets up to confess himself as the impostor and to expose Bhagwandas as his accomplice. That bit of honesty restores Raju's worth in Nishi's eyes and though he goes for a term to jail, he comes out to rush into her waiting arms before the fade-out. A criminal thus gets the plum.

**MODEST VALUES**

The production values are not bad. Sets serve the purpose. Photography is generally competent and so is the recording of sound. The lyrics are mostly trite. The music is modestly interesting in bits but it is time our music directors stopped giving those hybrid "hey-hey" tunes which sound less like music and more like the mating call of animals. The dialogue ranges from effective and economical to crude and long-winded. The direction is almost adequate for the modest demands of the story.

From the players, Nalini Jaywant as Nishi looks unexciting and acts perfunctorily. M. Rajan plays the dual role of Raju and Ramesh with a fixed face. His facial muscles, it seems, will either take a lot of training or a lot of flies before they show some mobility. It is worth trying some bees on his face. David as Bhagwandas acts with his usual ease and confidence but he doesn't seem to keep the millions in his mind all the time because the old Jew's eyes don't sparkle half the time. David must always remember his stake in the picture and not worry about the payment from the producer. We know it is difficult for a Jew to nurse imaginary money all the time in his mind and play the role. But then that is where art begins. Manmohan Krishna as the old servant Dinoo Kaka gives a good, unobtrusive performance. From the rest Gope and Om Prakash as two comical characters provide some loud comedy, while Jeevan, in too big a role for a guest artiste, provides some familiar villainy.

In short, "Fifty-Fifty" is a tolerable entertainer without being distinguished in any way. It can be seen when one has nothing better to do.

**FIFTY-FIFTY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Producers: | **Roopnagar Ltd.** |
| Language: | **Hindustani** |
| Story: | **Webber and Veiyra** |
| Dialogue: | **Agha Jani Kashmiri** |
| Lyrics: | **Rajendra Krishan** |
| Music: | **Madan Mohan** |
| Photography: | **Ramchandra** |
| Sound: | **Manek Kale and S. Kapila** |
| Cast: | **Nalini Jaywant, M. Rajan, David, Gope, Om Prakash, Manmohan Krishan, etc.** |
| Released At: | **Roxy, Bombay** |
| Date of Release: | **16th March 1956** |

Directed By:
**ROSHANLAL MALHOTRA**

*OUR REVIEW*

# "Patrani" Tolerably Good Entertainer

## Testosterone Tale of Gujarati King

In "Patrani" director Vijay Bhatt and writer R. S. Chaudhary profess to be grazing in the pasture of Gujrat's history. They tell a fanciful and occasionally outlandish tale and assert it to be a historical romance. Historical or not, the tale as presented contains little flavour of history and even less of

**An Arab knows only one way of grabbing the pulse. With a tight grip on the woman's wrist he counts his own heartbeats. That is the medical science of romance and Narang is practising it on Madhubala in "Najma", an exciting tale of love and adventure.**

**This is rather a thick-skulled pair for romance. But then love is a lightning that can strike even a donkey. These unknown pedlars in love are seen in "Malika", a romantic tale.**

romance. It is more properly a complicated court drama in costume that manages to generate some interest here and there but never convinces.

However, considering that Vijay Bhatt has numerous times in the past reduced history and legend to uninteresting absurdity and that R. S. Chaudhary has perpetrated an untold number of tortures called stories, "Patrani" can be called a tolerable concoction from these two. They could have done much worse, but they haven't. And that is a bit of mercy on a film critic in these sultry days.

### NIGHTMARE TALE

The story is set in the Gujrat of 1080 A.D. Karnadev Solanki is the young ruler of Patan and possesses quite a crowd of wives, without caring to look down into posterity and spot a Morarji Desai who would be embarrassed by such a recklessly much-married ancestor. But Karnadev, it seems, uses his wives only for soothing his eyes and goes to bed alone because he has reserved the bed for the girl who has been constantly visiting him in his dreams since his childhood. She is the girl whom he had once seen in a temple and for whom he has been pining ever since. Now what a man does or does not do in his bed is his own business, but the bed-story of Karnadev happens to be also the concern of his mother, ministers and subjects because they are all anxious to have an heir to the throne. But Karnadev refuses to oblige his people by producing an heir, and the Rajmata, therefore, dispatches Munjal Mehta, one of the king's foxy ministers, to hunt for the girl the king will go to bed with.

Taking up the mission Munjal arrives in Karnatak which is ruled by King Jaikeshi who happens to have an over-generously built wife and a generously built daughter named Mrinalla. Now Mrinalla too is a dreamy bird who has been seeing a lover in her dreams and causing her parents a lot of worry by refusing to marry unless the man of her dreams can be found on earth. Extending a little cooperation to her parents, she puts down her dream lover on a canvas and the wandering Munjal instantly recognizes his crazy king in the portrait. He rushes back to Patan and manages to thrust a portrait of Mrinalla before Karnadev who identifies her as his dream girl.

After this there shouldn't have been any difficulty in these Sassi-Punnu type of dreamy lovers uniting and doing the needful to save a royal lineage from termination. But difficulty does arise because the crazy Karnadev is afflicted with an additional craziness in his violent and fanatic abhorrence of dark-skinned women, while Mrinalla, normally a fair-complexioned girl, happens to be abnormally susceptible to sun-tanning with even a little exposure to sun leaving her looking like an African beauty for days. And the route and circumstances that Mrinalla passes through before arriving in Patan to wed Karnadev turn her complexion dangerously dark. Karnadev does not see her veiled face but the look he gets of her dark hands and feet drives him mad with fury and he refuses to wed the "Kali Karnataki".

Later some pressure and the conventional blackmail by the mother bend Karnadev enough to wed Mrinalla but though the horse is dragged to the river, nobody is able to make it drink the water, and Karnadev refuses to look at his new bride's face. To add to the complications comes Namunjala, a professional dancing charmer, who wants nothing short of Karnadev's love. And now the chameleonish Mrinalla and the foxy Munjal launch upon a career of tricks to set the ruler right. Mrinalla, having regained her fair complexion by now, goes to Karnadev pretending to be the dancer Namunjala and succeeds in seducing him. The seduction is followed by some high-pitched excitement with priests and the populace accusing the ruler of sin and Karnadev agreeing to perform a suicidal expiation. In the end, of course, Karnadev doesn't embrace death, he embraces Mrinalla and before the fade-out we are shown his achievement in a cradle.

### NOT SO BAD

This "historical romance" is quite sprawling, crowded and long-winded and Chaudhary's screenplay makes it stubbornly knotty too. In the first half the tale meanders a lot and in the second half the complications are too crowded. But on the whole it emerges as tolerably interesting stuff in spite of its general fancifulness and occasional foolishness.

The production values are unimpressive. Kanu Desai's sets somehow manage to give the picture a period look but the palaces and courts still look shabby. Photography is clumsy almost throughout. Sound recording is frequently erratic. The dialogue is long-winded and theatrical but in places is quite interesting and of a variety that usually pleases the masses. The music is tolerably pleasant in some classical sounding tunes. The direction is an average job without being very imaginative.

The best performance in the picture comes from David who, in the role of the foxy Munjal, is effectively sly and sympathetic. It is a meaty role of a shrewd and sharp-witted man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who is constantly weaving good-intentioned plans and plots and watching the results with winsome mischief, and though David begins the biting hesitantly he soon digs his teeth deep into the role and never leaves it. Vyjayantimala as Mrinalla does fairly good work. The role demands more than she gives but she gives more than one expected from her. Pradeep Kumar, in the first half of the picture, is his usual wooden self but warms up a bit in some dramatic scenes towards the end. Jeevan, as another minister of Karnadev, plays a meaty role too but he serves only ham. Om Prakash as an artist is completely idiotic. Durga Khote as the Rajmata is as usual stagy. As the professional charmer Namunjala, Shashikala's work is eccentric and in one particular scene she makes some exaggeratedly bitter faces. From the rest Ramesh Sinha as King Jaikeshi keeps one constantly in doubt whether he is speaking or barking after an attack of rabies, while Parveen Paul as his overblown spouse does fill up the frame pretty effectively.

In short, "Patrani" carries little historical flavour, less romantic aroma and least credibility. But as most costume tales go, it is a tolerable entertainer for those who have been condemned to seek entertainment in Indian pictures.

**PATRANI**

Producers: **Prakash Pictures**
Language: **Hindustani**
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue: **R. S. Chaudhary**
Lyrics: **Shailendra, Hasrat Jaipuri**
Music: **Shankar, Jaikishan**
Art Direction: **Kanu Desai**
Photography: **Bipin Gajjar**
Sound: **L. J. Bhatt, T. K. Dave**
Cast: **Vyjayantimala, Pradeep Kumar, Shashikala, David, Jeevan, Om Prakash, Durga Khote, etc.**
Released At: **Super, Bombay**
Date of Release: **29th March 1956**

Directed By:
**VIJAY BHATT**

**This one at least is not born to blush unseen. She will soon have a caravan of fluttering hearts following her from milestone to milestone of her pretty life. "Baby" Tabassum, now trembling on the frontiers of youth and wondering whether youth is an occult existence, returns to the screen a maiden of new mysteries in "Yahudi-ki-Beti", a romantic tale.**

*OUR REVIEW*

# Bimal's "Devdas" Better Picture Than Barua's

## Picture Better Directed Than Played

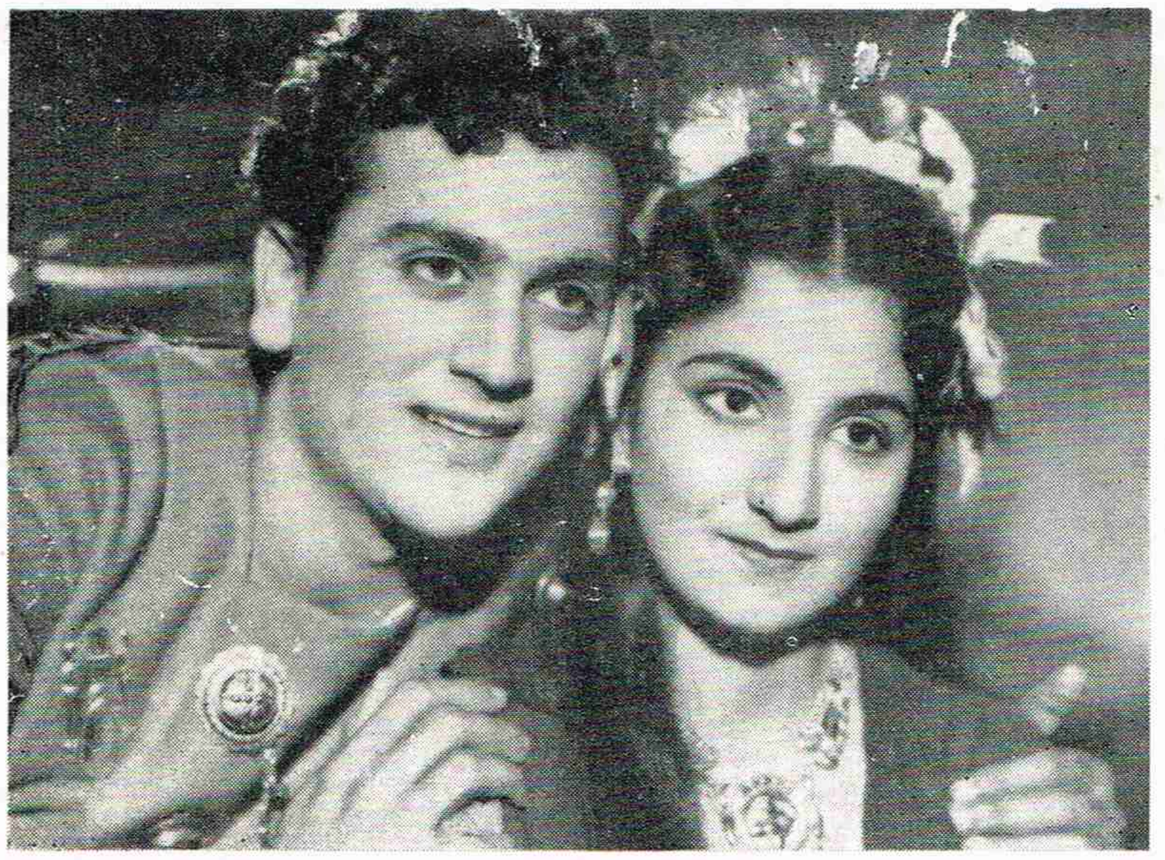
"Devdas", the tragic love story Saratchandra Chatterjee wrote many decades ago, has been more read and re-read than perhaps any other piece of fiction written in an Indian language. Over the years this sad tale has moved millions of people and drawn tears from millions of eyes. It has inspired stage producers, film producers, translators and of course literary poachers. About twenty years ago it inspired P. C. Barua and the New Theatres of Calcutta to make a film in which the late Saigal as Devdas, sang sad, soulful songs helping the picture to become the rage of a nation.

And now the latest creative victim of the spell of this Sarat classic is Bimal Roy who has already brought to the screen a number of Sarat stories. Bimal Roy's "Devdas", without doubt, is a fine picture and a superb production made with transparent sincerity, sober understanding and meticulous care. Told with sharp clarity, it is a picture of artistic grace and great appeal. And as a production, though not in all respects, it is definitely superior to the New Theatres' version which, judged from present standards, is naturally found to carry technical naivete. Since most re-makes are seen by the spectators with a bit of conscious or unconscious prejudice, it is possible that Bimal's picture may not impress too deeply some of those who received the first emotional impact of the Sarat story from the Barua version and are therefore jealously eager to nurse in their hearts an old emotional experience. But to others, as a portrayal of the Sarat classic, Bimal Roy's "Devdas" cannot fail to strike as a vivid, graceful and greatly appealing picture.

### THE SUBTLE SARAT

As in most of his stories, in "Devdas" also Sarat quietly exposes the hollowness and irrationality of some of the contemporary social customs. And perhaps his severest slap on the face of the period's social hypocrites is the powerful glorification of the prostitute, Chandramukhi's character. But Sarat keeps the social comment in the background and maintains the focus on emotion in this tale of a love that begins unconsciously and ends tragically. The love between Devdas and Parvati could easily blossom into marriage and yet it did not and instead became the agony of two frustrated hearts. There was no one cause behind this tragedy. The tragedy was caused by many things, some serious, some trifling. Social orthodoxy of parents, Parvati's pride and above all Devdas' irresoluteness —all these sowed the seed of the tragedy. Sarat portrays Devdas as an impulsive youth who did not have the patience to ponder, could not penetrate a problem and who reached quick conclusions without thinking long or deeply. Devdas did not analyse in time his emotional relationship with Parvati nor did he try to realize its intensity, and by the time he did Parvati was already married to another. The tragedy of "Devdas" thus is very real and therefore very poignant.

It is to the credit of Bimal Roy that, largely, he follows the Sarat story closely and faithfully like a gown-holding page following the royalty. There are only three notable deviations, namely Chuni-



**Diljit and Tabassum bring new drama to the screen in "Yahudi-ki-Beti", a thrilling tale of love.**

lal reintroducing Devdas to drink in a railway compartment instead of in Lahore, Parvati and Chandramukhi actually laying eyes on each other which they never did, and Devdas, after posting the ominous letter to Parvati, telling himself that he had lied by writing to Parvati that he had never thought himself to be in love with her. The first deviation is just a matter of cinematic convenience, the second in our opinion is a tender emotional touch, while the third is a matter of interpretation, because though Devdas does react with uneasiness after posting that letter he never says that he had deliberately lied in denying that he was in love with Parvati.

And it is a matter of interpretation whether Devdas was a timid youth who had surrendered his emotional world merely in order not to displease his orthodox parents, or he was an unconscious lover who kept sleeping too long and woke up too late to realize that what he had thought to be mere attachment was in reality deep love and that Parvati was the indispensable vitality of his emotional world. Bimal Roy's interpretation suggesting that Devdas' initial indifference was deliberately feigned in deference to his parents' wish, is rather an over-simplified solution of a complex character created by the author. On the whole, however, Bimal Roy makes the Sarat story live on the screen.

## LOVE MISFIRES

The well-known story, as presented on the screen, deals with Devdas and Parvati, two kids in the village Talsonapur. Devdas is the son of the rich zamindar Narayan Mukerji, while Parvati is the daughter of the well-to-do Nilkanth Chakravarty. Devdas and Parvati are inseparable playmates though they now and then quarrel with Devdas occasionally beating her and Parvati taking the reports of his mischief to his parents. Suddenly finding him getting too prankish Devdas' parents decide to pack him off to Calcutta for schooling. And Parvati becomes a sad little girl without her playmate.

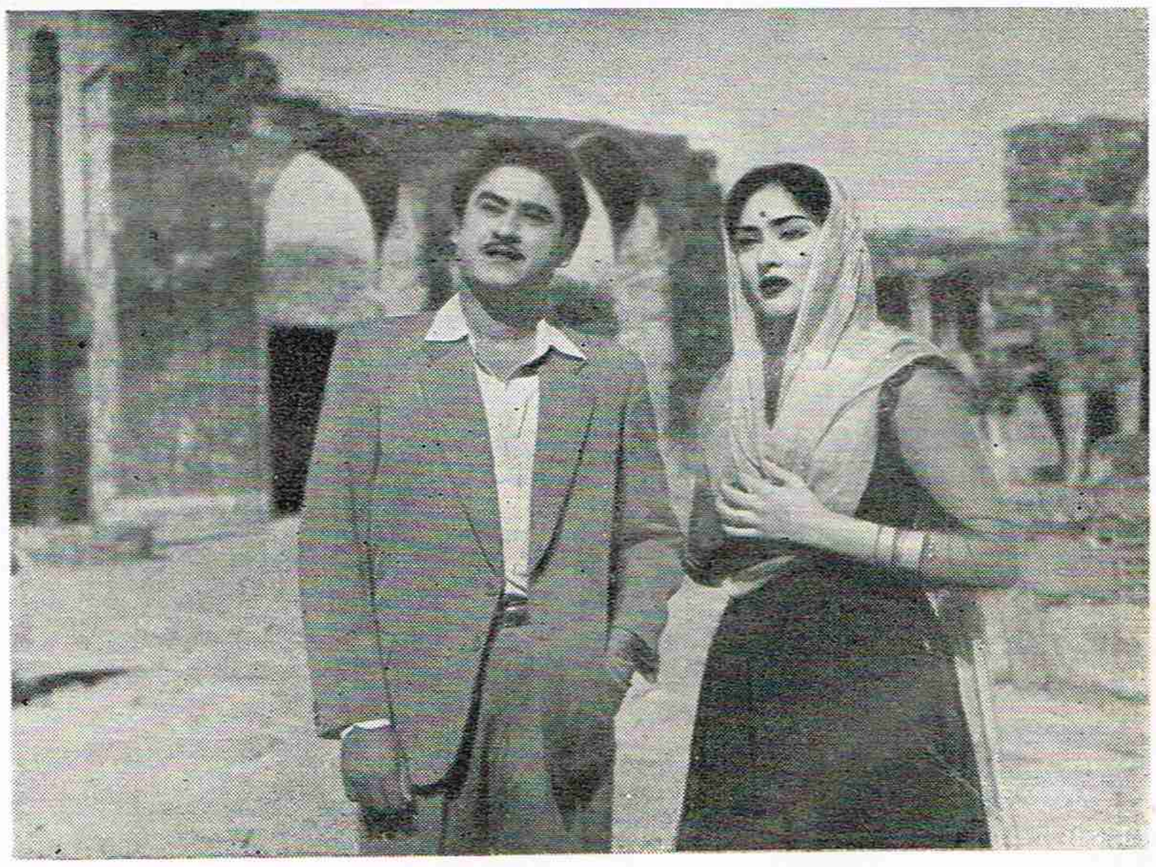
Years roll by and a grown-up Devdas returns to Talsonapur to find Parvati a grown-up girl. Their meetings are now accompanied by awkardness and shyness. Realizing that she was quite young to be married off and that nobody could make a better match for her than her old playmate Devdas, Parvati's grandmother goes to Devdas' mother to propose marriage. But Narayan, the Mukerji, considered the Chakravartys to be on a lower rung of the social order and so he refuses even to think of Parvati as a match for Devdas. The news angers Nilkanth who haughtily promises to find a hundred better grooms than Devdas for his beautiful daughter. But Parvati is upset by the news and with determination visits Devdas one night. Along with tears pours out her heart to him and appeals to him to step in and accept her in marriage. Devdas looks troubled and yet he only emphasizes his inability to go against his parents' wishes. Devdas then goes to Calcutta and from there writes to Parvati asking her to forget him and declaring that he had never thought himself to be in love with her.

But immediately after posting the letter Devdas regrets it and fearing it would hurt Parvati too deeply rushes back to the village. But by now Parvati's marriage had been arranged with an elderly but rich widower, while Devdas' impulsive letter had done the mischief with the proud, self-respecting Parvati. Devdas tries to make amends by saying that he would get round his parents to marry her, but Parvati nursing the insult, spurns his offer and even tries to sting him with a taunt. The meeting ends in a little violence, and the tragedy begins.

Parvati goes away with her bridegroom whom she does not love and to live a life which she accepts as living death. At the other end, the slumbering love of Devdas now develops into a smouldering emotion. He suddenly feels he has nothing to live for in the world and, in the company of an acquaintance, Chunilal, takes to drink and to visiting Chandramukhi, a prostitute, whom he keeps hating until a very long time. The rest of the tale generally constitutes an account of Devdas trying to burn his life out in escape, sorrow and dissipation. In his association, however, Chandramukhi gives up her degraded profession and begins to live simply and adore Devdas greatly. In the classic pathetic ending, Devdas, a physical wreck, with death looming over him, takes an arduous trip to Parvati's village, Hathipota, and breathes his last in front of her house thus keeping an old promise. He receives a stranger's cremation at the hands of the villagers. Parvati learns too late the name of the stranger who had died at her doorstep and when she does she goes hysterical and collapses in what looks like death but what in the Sarat story was only unconsciousness.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTION

The screen portrayal of the tale is vivid, imaginative, sometimes moving but always absorbing. The screenplay is clever and imaginative and Bimal Roy's direction smooth and highly artistic. The picture, however, has some shortcomings. Chiefly they are that Bimal Roy underplays the emotionalism of the story failing to wring the maximum emotion out of some situations and that he does not quite succeed in



**Youth wonders at the ruins while the ruins smile at youth. And no one can decide what is right—the mock smile of the past or the pleasant wonder of the present. Kishore Kumar and Vyjayantimala make a romantic team in "New Delhi".**

**In the heat of romance women become atheists but when the brute lets them down, they run to God to bring him back. Meena Kumari sends up a direct appeal in "Halaku".**

investing the picture with the real environs of Bengal. Particularly the climactic scenes of Devdas' cart-journey and his pathetic death are not as emotionally effective as they could be. And yet on the whole Bimal Roy has given a memorable picture.

The production values are first rate. Sets are effective and reveal imagination. Photography is consistently pleasant. Sound recording is unusually efficient, though there are bits of mumbled dialogue. Sahir Ludhianvi's lyrics, however, are totally uninspiring. The man seems to be chasing either Hindi words or Urdu words but rarely an original or tender thought. S. D. Burman's music is pleasant in some places and familiar in other places. Some of his tunes sound a rehash of old tunes while even the pleasant ones don't seem to contain any lasting quality. The dialogue is mostly taken from Ramchandra Verma's Hindi translation of "Devdas", and therefore it was rather unnecessary for Rajender Singh Bedi to take the credit for the dialogue.

### SUCHITRA, MOUNTAIN IN LABOUR

From the players, Dilip Kumar plays the coveted but complex role of Devdas and he fits the role very well. This is the first time that Dilip has made an almost perfect attempt to merge himself into the role and at places it is extremely difficult to separate the two. But why did he allow himself to be overshadowed by tragedy right in the beginning? In his first meeting with Parvati he wears a sad and tragic face—and unnecessarily. And why did Dilip take his tone and diction from Motilal? The personality of an artiste is made up of not merely his face and figure but also of his speech, tone and mannerism. Jettisoning them for a role is not good art—art not being mere mimicry but a fine emotional interpretation of a role through the medium of a personality. Dilip Kumar need not also have been so constantly haunted by the ghost of Saigal. Suchitra Sen, the much publicized Bengali belle, does not turn out to be such a sensation after all. She looks pretty in some angles and not-so-pretty in other angles, and she acts well in spasms. The voice she speaks with—if that is her own voice—is too hoarse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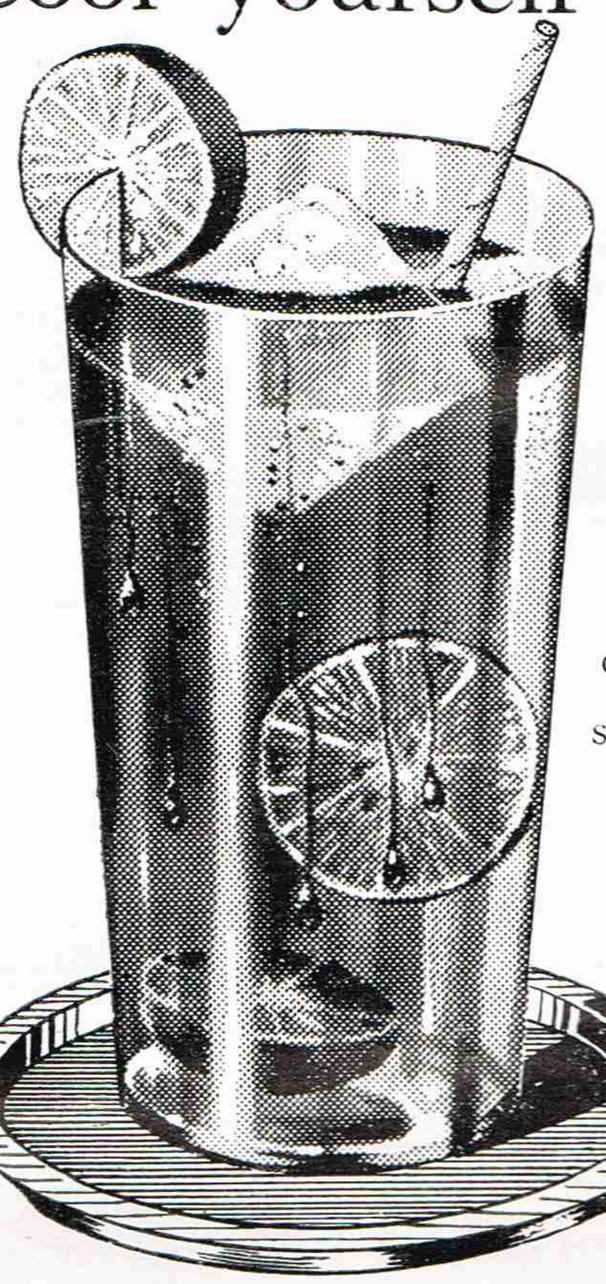

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3 *Put into teapot (of 12 oz. capacity) three teaspoonful of tea bought from a recognised stockist, and infuse for five minutes.*

4 *Now, pour infused liquid tea through strainer into a large glass tumbler filled with crushed ice. Add sugar and sliced lemon to taste, but no milk.*

5 *Cool for a few minutes, stir and sip to enjoy.*

If you wish to make more iced tea, you must take one teaspoonful of tea for every 6 oz cup, plus another ½ teaspoonful to allow for the melting ice.

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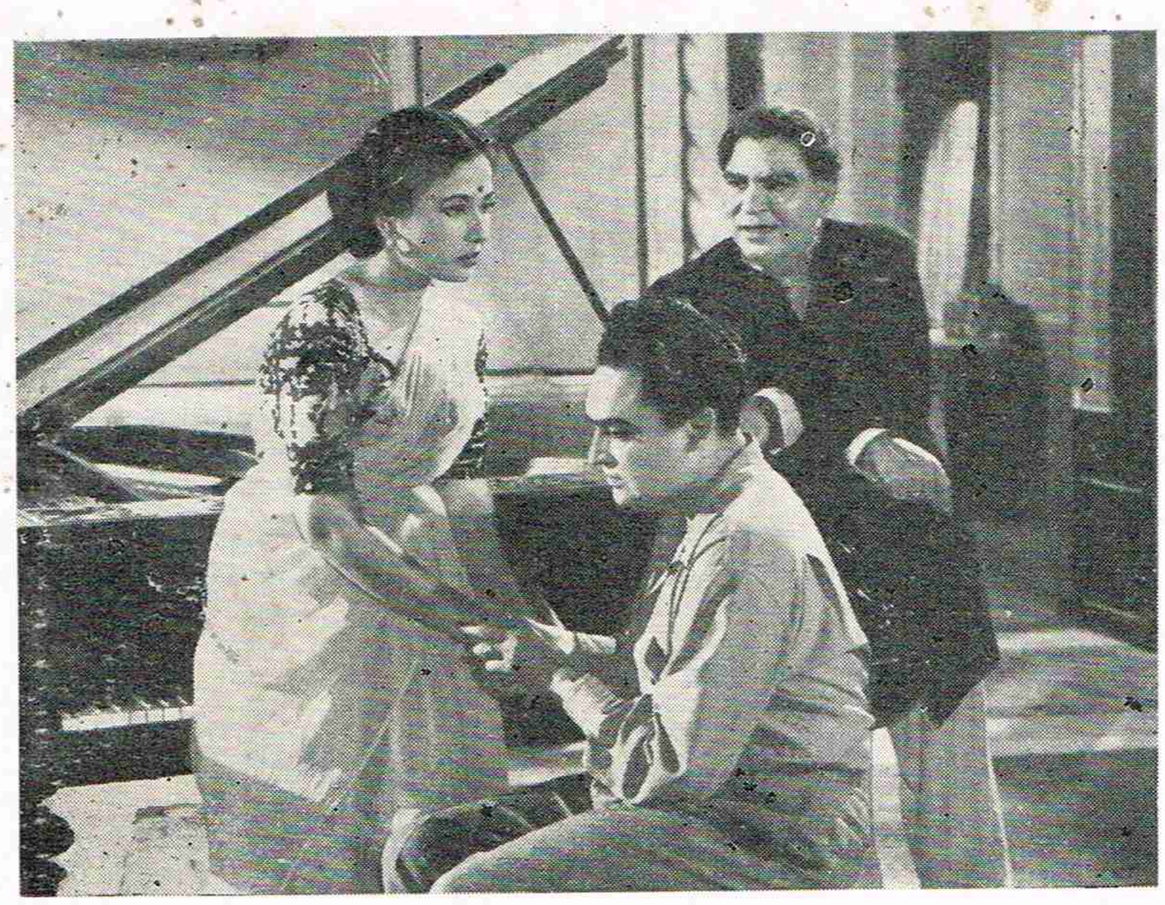

**This is a family problem—or is it a problem in the Indian family with a piano thrown in? Meet them all—Meena Kumari, Ashok Kumar and Yakub—in "Shatranj".**

and crackling to be pleasant. That she looks a bit old for the role is obvious. Saratchandra describes Parvati on the eve of her marriage to be 13-year old, and Bimal Roy, naturally, suggests her to be 18-19 years old. But Suchitra looks at least three children old—not ready-made children of her husband in the picture—but her very own.

Vyjayantimala who plays the role of Chandramukhi, already seems to know the technique and requirements of the role but having very poor and limited histrionic talent fails to deliver the goods emotionally. Her emotion at best is a physical jerk or gesture and though her role is sympathetic never once does she win the sympathy of the audience. She remains synthetic throughout and virtually murders a great emotional role. Motilal who plays Chunnilal looks more like Motilal than Chunnilal and yet there seems to be no loss in the portrayal of the character.

Baby Naaz playing the younger Parvati does very good work, though obvious sometimes, while the boy who plays the younger Devdas looks silly, and defies physical comparison with the grown-up Devdas. Nazir Hussein as Dharmdas is not only ineffective but even irritating. He is irritating because he does not seem to understand the role of the old, trusted and affectionate servant, and brings to the role a shade of unpleasantness by his over-patronizing attitude to Devdas and an exaggerated note of complaint ever present in his voice. Besides the faces he makes and the poses he strikes remind us of a dozen recent pictures in which we have seen him doing the same thing with monotony. From the rest, Murad as Narayan Mukerji does not seem to even care to look the role. His is a two-scene pedestrian work, repulsive at first sight. This man must be given rest. Iftekhar as Dwijdas, the elder brother of Devdas, is unconvincing. Kammo as Manorama, Parvati's friend, here looks younger than Parvati, though it should be otherwise, and does mediocre work, never managing to look a Bengali anyway. The Muslim contingent in the acting crowd seems to be Dilip Kumar's usual gift to the producer. These Muslim artistes can hardly interpret the fine emotional requirements of the essentially traditional Hindu characters of Saratchandra. They are all right in bandit tales like "Azaad" but Dilip Kumar should not thrust them upon a mild-mannered producer like Bimal Roy and shake the emotional foundations of the story. We like Dilip's club-tie loyalties but he should find some other occupation for his Muslim brothers rather than foist them in wrong pictures. "Devdas" is poisoned by this Muslim crowd which seems to cash on Dilip's personal influence on producers.

All in all, Bimal Roy's "Devdas" is a vivid, sincere and absorbing portrayal of the Sarat story. It is a fine picture and a superb production though it misses a few points on the emotional score. And it is a better picture than Barua's "Devdas" for several reasons.

**DEVDAS**

Producers: **Bimal Roy Productions**
Language: **Hindustani**
Screenplay: **Nabendu Ghosh**
Lyrics: **Sahir Ludhianvi**
Music: **S. D. Burman**
Photography: **Kamal Bose**
Sound: **E. M. Suratwala**
Cast: **Dilip Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Vyjayantimala, Motilal, Nazir Hussein, Baby Naaz, Ram Kumar, etc.**
Released At: **Regal, Bombay**
Date of Release: **30th March 1956**

Directed By:
**BIMAL ROY**

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**When courting men tap the back. After marriage they kick the back. Most women deserve it but not when a beautiful woman makes the mistake of marrying a chap like Kishore Kumar in "New Delhi"**

# AT HOME AND ABROAD

**Dreams and devils—both find a woman on her back. A woman can neither think nor dream on her feet. Watch Mala Sinha dreaming with the punctuation of thought in "Paisa Hi Paisa", a social story directed by Mehrish for Mehboob Productions Ltd.**

### A WEIGHTY CHOICE

Indore, March 25.

The fourth annual general meeting of the Film Federation of India was held at Indore on March 24. Mr. S.S. Vasan, the outgoing president of the Film Federation of India, read the report which said that the approach of the Government of India towards the film industry was far from friendly. There was "a desire to clamp more controls" on the industry but no inclination to appreciate its peculiar problems, much less enlist its cooperation in the "great task of nation-building".

Lala Jagat Narain of Delhi was elected president of the Federation for the year 1956-57, Mr. S. S. Vasan and Mr. M.B. Billimoria were elected vice-presidents. Thirty-six members were elected to the new executive.

Weight seems to have been the main consideration in the choice of the new president. Let us, hope, however, that Lala Jagat Narain does something weighty for the film industry during the year and that he doesn't crush out of existence the excellent work done by Mr. Vasan during the last two years.

### CHANGING BEDS

Hollywood, March 30.

Edmund Purdom, British-born actor and hero of "The Student Prince", divorced wife Anita in Santa Monica, California.

Married to Anita for four years, Edmund has two children. Anita shared the early struggles of her husband when they first came to Hollywood when Edmund Purdom was a non-entity.

Today Edmund is a well-established star. His name has been coupled with film actress Linda Christian for quite some time. Anyway we will soon know who is going to be the next Mrs. Purdom in the new series.

### ANNUAL TAMASHA

New Delhi, April 12.

The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akadami selected the following for the annual awards in music, dance, acting and drama:—Hindustani vocal —the late Raja Bhayya Poonchwale; Hindustani instrumental —Bismillah, the shahnai player; Carnatic vocal—M. S. Subbulakshmi; Carnatic instrumental —Palghat T. S. Mani Iyer, the 'mridangam' artiste; Kathakali —Guru Kunju Kurup; Manipuri —Guru Amubi Singh; Acting (drama) — Ganpatrao Bodas; Directing and producing (drama) —Prithviraj Kapoor was nominated for this award but no award could be given as Prithviraj is a Fellow of the Akadami, the highest honour given by the body.

No Akadami awards were given this year to films.

President Rajendra Prasad gave the Awards to the recipients on April 11.

That completes the work of the Sangeet Natak Akadami for this year. Now it can rest in peace till the next Award-giving function.

### SO FAR AND NO FURTHER

Hollywood, March 28.

Elsie Janis, one of the famous stars of Broadway in the early twenties, died at the age of 65 after an operation for perforated ulcers.

During World War I, she was a popular entertainer for U.S. troops in France. She wrote two books, "So Far, So Good" and "Love Letters Of An Actress". Soldiers often referred to Elsie Janis as "the swetheart of the A.E.F."

### GRAVESIDE OXYGEN

Surat, March 17.

The Government of Bombay sanctioned awards totalling Rs. 10,000 to 15 leading dramatists, actors, novelists, poets and musicians in the State under the scheme of granting financial assistance to artistes in dire circumstances.

Stage actors Bal Gandharva and Chhitoba R. Gaurav of Bombay, Dramatist B. V. Mama Warerkar and actor-dramatist G. K. Bodas of Bombay, novelist Narayan Hari Apte of Koregaon, received Rs. 1000/- each.

Inayat Khan of Bombay (singer), Gaurishanker Vairati of Baroda (poet), Prabhuram Gandharap of Surat (musician), Yeshwant Pendharkar of Poona (poet), Ramchandra Rao of Dharwar (poet), Bai Azambai Pisal of Kolhapur (singer), V. P. Bhadkumkar of Poona

**It is a hair-raising hair-do. Since hair-dressers started ruffling the hair of our film actresses, the girls have begun to look less womanly than their mothers did. And the choli that covers the elbow hides the best part of a woman's arm and makes her look like an overwrapped Christmas cracker. But then Shyama seems to like all this in "Bhai Bhai", a romantic tale.**

(stage actor), Balkrishna B. Gokhale of Poona (stage actor), Laljibhai N. Desai of Baroda (stage actor) and D. D. Bhonsle of Sangli (actor) received Rs. 500/- each.

Though the amounts are fleabites under the present high cost of living, we congratulate the Government on its right move. The nation must care for its entertainers when they are down and out.

### "NOO" TONY

Hollywood, April 5.

Film actress Janet Leigh, recently seen in "Pete Kelly's Blues", is quite thrilled these days because she will soon become a mother.

Married to actor Tony Curtis, Janet and Tony are still enjoying the blissful state of married life, a rarity in Hollywood.

### THE RAINS CAME

Columbus, March 19.

Mr. Louis Bromfield, well-known American novelist, died of a liver and kidney failure at Columbus, Ohio, on March 18 at the age of 59.

Born in 1897 and educated at Cornell and Columbia, Louis Bromfield first attracted attention when he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1826 with his "Early Autumn". Some of his best known novels are "The Rains Came" and "The Strange Case of Mrs. Annie Spragge".

Hollywood recently made a re-make of the old picture "The Rains Came" under the title "The Rains of Ranchipur".

Louis was keenly interested in agriculture and owned a beautiful farm called the Malabar Farm at Mansfield where he grew his own food in a scientific manner.

### DRAWL IN BED

Hollywood, April 6.

Actress Mary Murphy has at last made up her mind to marry actor Dale Robertson, very much in demand these days as the leading man in several pictures.

In the meantime, Dale has filed divorce proceedings against wife Jacqueline. They say that Mary is very much fascinated by Dale's Oklahoma drawl.

Let us see how long it takes for the drawl to wear off!

### PRIZE PLAY

Surat, March 20.

The Government of Bombay awarded the first prize of Rs. 1000 to Mr. Anant Acharya, Assistant Employment officer, Surat, for the best Gujarati play "Navalun Prabhat" based on the removal of untouchability.

Why can't some enterprising producer make a picture of this play? The boy-meets-girl theme seen on the Indian screen is now completely worn out and we need to depict some social problems of the day.

### RIOTOUS RITA

New York, March 14.

Rita Hayworth lost her £ 75,000 damages suit against Columbia Pictures. The judge held that she had repudiated her contract without justification. Rita is now faced with a counter-suit launched by Columbia Pictures.

Rita's troubles seem to be never ending.

### PROGRESSIVE MUSLIMS

Cairo, March 28.

The University of El Azhar, Cairo, announced on March 27 that the age-old Muslim taboos on music and more recent ones on motion pictures would be given a burial for good.

From October 1956, music courses were to be inaugurated at its Young Women's Religious Institute. All new mosques would be fitted with film projection rooms.

Religious Affairs Minister, Mr. Ahmed Hassan el Bakouri, said that films should be shown free in mosques.

Egyptian directors have been asked to produce films with religious fervour to educate the people of the country.

In the Nasser regime, things are certainly progressing fast. Harnessing the film for religious propaganda can, however, lead to bigotry and that is what the Egyptians should avoid.

### STREET ACT

New York, March 18.

Television and radio comedian, Fred Allen, suddenly collapsed in death near his residence while taking a midnight stroll on March 17.

His fans loved his droll humour. He was 62 and had acted in hundreds of plays. One of his most lovable roles was in "Town Hall Tonight" in the early forties. About Hollywood Allen said, "California is a wonderful place to live—if you're an orange.

### SQUEEZING INSOLVENTS

London, March 18.

At the annual conference of the Association of Cinematograph and Allied Technicians held in London, the workers passed a resolution condemning film producers who had not given them a wage increase or overtime payment since 1947 and their "continual refusal" to do anything about it.

Mr. George Elvin, general secretary of the Association said, "We are not going to be told, as we have been time and time again, that we can only negotiate for certain of our members up to a certain salary ceiling and that we cannot negotiate for the rest".

By 'rest' he meant the workers earning £ 40 a week. It looks as if the workers are on the warpath.

### CALLING CHINTU DESHUMKH

Rome, March 28.

The Italian Government has passed a law whereby foreign film people earning in Italy will be subject to tax.

The imposition of the new tax was announced by Budget Minister Ezio Xanoni, who said that

millions of lire earned by foreigners, particularly Americans, in Italy escaped tax. Italian producers have been ordered by the Government to withold salary percentages to guarantee their tax payments.

It is high time our Government also followed similar measures considering that many American film producers and distributors earn big amounts from their pictures in India.

### DONALD'S "DUCK"

Hollywood, April 2.

Film actor Donald O' Connor has set his heart on Gloria Noble. Any day Donald may lead Gloria to the altar.

They have dated each other long enough to study each other's defects!

### BAD COIN

Hollywood, April 4.

Pretty Jean Peters, star of "Three Coins In The Fountain", divorced wealthy hubby Stuart Cramer III.

Jean will probably resume her film career now that she is a free lark once again.

### CADDISH ESCAPE

Hollywood, March 20.

Playwright Clifford Odets had an accident with his new Lincoln when he collided with another vehicle in Beverly Hills, a little before midnight.

He rushed on but was soon caught by the police and jailed for nine hours. He was charged with drunken driving and evasive action after a collision and released the next morning on a bail of 263 dollars.

This one was a scene from real life and not a phoney one from his plays, though in the picture "The Big Knife", based on Odets' anti-Hollywood play, there occurs a similar hit-and-run accident.

### UNNECESSARY HOSPITALITY

Bombay, March 22.

The Film Federation of India gave a gala dinner at the Taj Mahal Hotel on March 21 in honour of Mr. Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and Mrs. Johnston.

Speaking fluently with dramatic gestures and a well modulated voice, Eric Johnston elaborated on peace and progress and how these could be achieved through films. Said Eric, "You cannot bring about understanding by intransigence or by forces of war. It can be brought about only by peaceful means".

Describing film producers as "emissaries of goodwill, education and information", he talked of the code of ethics followed by American producers and finally ended his speech with this advice to producers, "This is your responsibility—the responsibility of bringing better understanding among the peoples of the world so that we may at last have that for which mankind sought through the ages, peace on earth and goodwill towards man".

Mr. S. S. Vasan made a short speech introducing the distinguished guest and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Srinivasan, the Federation secretary, in fine Tamilian English.

Everyone went home pleased with Eric's fine oratory and the Indian film industry remained exactly where it was before his visit. The dinner bill must have come up to Rs. 5000|-.

### POOR JANE

Hollywood, March 26.

When popular actress Jane Russell was asked to dye her hair red for a special role she remarked, "My husband will be even angrier. When he sees me, he'll probably give me another black eye. On the screen, I may look like a self-sufficient girl, but take it from me, that doesn't apply to my home life. He rules the roost."

We like to hear that from an American girl! Now we know there is at least one man who rules the roost in the Hollywood


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**Shyama and Johnny Walker have a field day in "Chhoo Mantar", a social comedy produced and directed by M. Sadiq. And it is fun that tickles and thrills.**

film colony. And that is why perhaps Jane Russell has remained married to one husband for more than ten years.

### OLD STINK

London, March 15.

Lt. Col. Cordeaux, Member of British Parliament, is seeking a ban for security reasons, on the showing of "The Man Who Never Was", a film version of an Allied war-time hoax which fooled Hitler's generals.

The hoax was conceived by Evan Montague, the Recorder of Southampton when he was a Naval Intelligence Officer. Because of the ruse, the Germans withdrew reinforcements in Sicily and at this moment the Allies struck there.

Montague stated, "I had a ready and willing authority to publish my book from the Minister of Defence".

The film is running well in America.

### STARRING BOOBIES

London, March 19.

Virginia Kelly, the blonde actress, has written a synopsis for a picture which will be produced by the Gaekwar of Baroda. Many Maharajas of India are likely to act in this picture to give it authenticity.

Said Virginia, "The Gaekwar first put some money into the film "The River" and ever since then the idea of making a film himself has fascinated him. The story is set in the 18th century and revolves around the love story of an Indian prince with Robin Hood ideas".

The Gaekwar must have an outlet for his "artistic" ideas, seeing that maharajas are no more popular in democratic India and the film is certainly the best medium for this purpose.

### NEWTON GRAVITATES

Hollywood, March 25.

British film actor, Robert Newton, died of a heart attack in Hollywood at the age of 50. He was talking to his wife in his home when he collapsed before any medical aid could be given to him.

Born on June 1, 1905, at Shaftesbury, he was in the British Navy for three years. He was a scene painter and stage hand before he took to stage acting in 1920. He worked in several plays on the London stage and abroad.

Robert Newton made his screen debut in 1937 in "Fire Over England" and made many fine pictures like "Major Barbara", "Jamaica Inn", "Androcles And the Lion", "Les Miserables", etc.

Newton's last starring role was in "Around The World In 80 Days", the multi-million dollar production of Mike Todd.

### NOVELTY ON WHEELS

New Delhi, March 29.

A special train with a specially-built cinema coach attached to it left Howrah on March 14. It toured the country for ten days carrying railway experts from several ECAFE region countries who had come to India for a meeting in New Delhi on March 25.

The "cinema on wheels" showed documentary films on India's Five Year Plan, cultural subjects and various railway projects.

Passengers on certain trains will be shown these films too. This is the first time that the 'cinema on wheels' has taken a concrete shape.

### NEW PAIR OF LEGS

San Francisco, March 26.

Screenwriter and author of "Duel In The Sun", Niven Busch, married for the fourth time charming 28-year-old socialite Carmencita Baker in San Francisco.

Let us hope Niven settles down to a steady life now that he is 52 and has a three-wife experience to back him up.

### CHANGING TASTE

Hollywood, April 5.

Marisa Pavan, the pretty twin sister of actress Pier Angeli, 23, married French actor Jean Pierre Aumont at Santa Barbara, California.

Before Prince Rainier of Monaco came on the scene, Jean Pierre was Grace Kelly's constant chaperon. Anyway at 46, Jean Pierre gets a young wife and a talented actress in Marisa. Marisa's work in "The Rose Tattoo" as the daughter of Anna Magnani was highly applauded.

### THE ANNUAL HUMBUG

Hollywood, March 23.

The annual Award-giving ceremony of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences was held at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood and attended by a glittering array of film stars, producers, directors, etc.

United Artists' won the Award for "Marty", the best picture of 1955, a Hecht-Lancaster production; Anna Magnani, for her brilliant portrayal of the lusty widow in "The Rose Tattoo", was voted the best actress of 1955 and Ernest Borgnine for his role in "Marty", the best actor of 1955. "Samurai", a Japanese picture, won the Award for the best foreign language picture.

### INFECTED

Hollywood, April 19.

Starlet Rita Gam, 27, who was one of the bridesmaids at Grace Kelly's wedding, has also been infected with the marriage virus.

She not only named her future husband in 29-year-old Yaleman Thomas Guinzburg, cofounder of "Paris Review", an English quarterly but married him quickly in Manhattan before her mind changed.

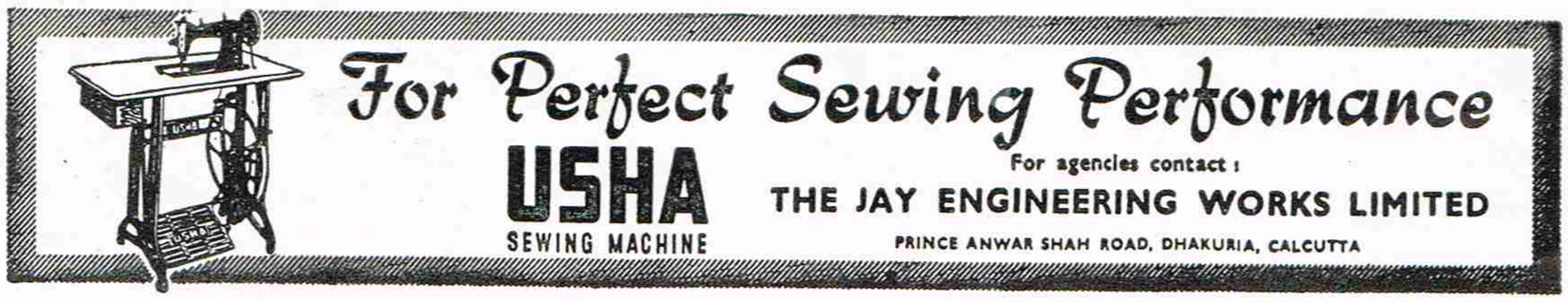
### JUST A TAILOR

Rome, March 30.

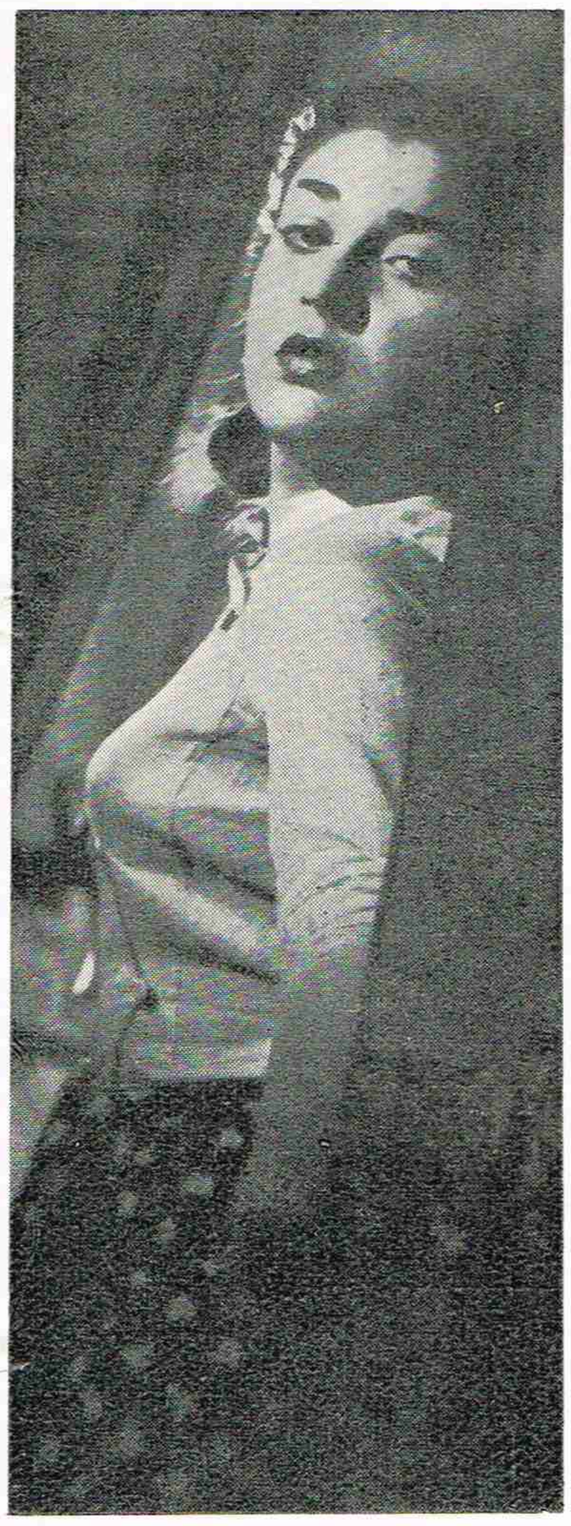
Count Lelio Galateri, a dressmaker, filed a breach of contract suit against sexy Italian actress Sophia Loren in a Rome civil court.

This case which has created quite a sensation in Italy is known as the "Pygmalion Case" because the Count says that he taught Sophia correct social behaviour just as Professor Higgins moulded Eliza Doolittle in Bernard Shaw's famous play "Pygmalion".

Said the Count, "I am the man who discovered her and taught her how to behave. ....




*Agents :* **M/s. Bombay Premier Trading Co., Bombay.**



There are no mysteries here, sunlight being the staple diet of all curves and contours. But there is yearning—a yearning that has an edge of desire. Let us see for whom Shammi is waiting with such desire—dripping eyes in "Lalten", an exciting love tale.

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I even gave her lessons in good maners when I used to go to lunch with her family every Sunday". Sophia in return had to buy clothes from him and give his name as her dress designer in her films but all that she did was to present him an autographed photograph with the inscription "To my great dressmaker Galateri".

No wonder the Count is in a temper. But Sophia is too busy to worry about tempers with her fast-increasing popularity.

### LABOUR BLACKMAIL

Hollywood, March 23.

The American Federation of Labour Film Council, representing 24,000 employees of different unions and guilds in the motion picture industry, said that it would start a boycott campaign against "Daniel Boone", a Mexican feature film.

The reason for this campaign is that though the picture had American finance it was produced in Mexico under non-union conditions and without American union-technicians.

### POOR BOY BRANDO

Manila, March 19.

Actor Marlon Brando who recently acted in "Guys And Dolls" was mobbed in Manila by hundreds of Filipino bobby-soxers, while on his way to Japan to make a new movie.

The bobby-soxers rushed at Brando in the midst of his news conference on the U.N.'s technical assistance programme. One girl asked Marlon, "Can I kiss you for somebody?" Marlon replied, "I can't do anything".

Another girl went one step further and asked Marlon, "Can you accommodate me while you're here?" Marlon blushingly replied, "I don't understand exactly what you mean. Let's get to the bottom of this". And within a few minutes he quietly fled from there.

Marlon fights shy of crowds but then he has to pay the price of popularity!

### NARGIS IN TROUBLE

Bombay, March 28.

Replying to a question by B.M. Chinai in the Bombay Legislative Council, Chief Minister Morarji Desai revealed that film actress Nargis was arrested on October 1, 1955, for an alleged traffic offence.

A station wagon BMK 3406 was parked on Chowpatty Road while the driver had gone to get "pan". As the wagon obstructed the traffic on the road, a sub-inspector requested the occupants of the vehicle to move the wagon. A verbal altercation is alleged to have taken place between Nargis and the sub-inspector resulting in the arrest of Nargis.

The Chief Minister refused to give more details as the matter was sub-judice.

### IN THE WRONG HANDS

Nasik, March 27.

Mr. B. S. Hiray, Revenue Minister of Bombay, laid the foundation stone of the Rs. 25,000-open-air theatre at Nasik. The open-air theatre is being constructed by the Nasik Municipality.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Hiray said that the Government of Bombay earned 3½ lakhs of rupees annually by way of entertainment tax from stage plays. There was a proposal to give pensions to stage artistes and construct more open-air theatres with this revenue.

This good idea should have occurred long ago to the Government. Anyway better late than never.

### CRIME FILMS

Washington, March 27.

The Congressional Committee report on Hollywood films with Senator Kefauver as its chairman, denounced excessive violence, brutality, sadism and illicit sex in some Hollywood films.

The report said that professional experts should be shown such films so that they can say in advance what effect such films will have on child audiences. Hollywood, of course, should be allowed to make "adult films" about social problems of the day.

The Committee advised Hollywood to study the workings of the British Board of Film Censors which "nowadays provides the most informed censorship".

The main problem before the Committee was whether violence in films made children juvenile delinquents. The general conclusion reached by the Committee was: "Hollywood films now reflect many of the socially undesirable attitudes, desires and wishes of adult society".

The Committee's findings coincide a hundred-per-cent with our own observations. Filmindia's 15-year-old agitation against crime and sex films is being noticed in America at last. Let us hope the American film producers see sense before they turn innocent youngsters into hardened criminals.

### COUNTED OUT

Baltimore, March 16.

Popular psychologist, Robert Mitchell Lindner, 41, died in Baltimore of a congenital heart condition.

Lindner was the author of the case study 'Rebel Without A Cause', which was made into a motion picture last year by Warner Brothers. The late James Dean starred in this hit.

### CRIME AS HOBBY

New York, April 3.

Milwaukee playboy, Robert Schlesinger, who came into news when he gave film actress Linda Christian jewellery worth $132,500 "as a matter of friendship" and then refused to honour the bills, seems to have been a resourceful man.

He is alleged to have swindled three Milwaukee businessmen with $330,000 saying that the amount would be invested in a "hush hush" Louisiana oil field.

A New York Court indicted him on eight counts of grand larceny. Schlesinger then escaped to Canada and worked as an airline pilot. The police, however, got scent of him and brought him back to New York. In court, Schlesinger pleaded guilty to two of the charges and promised "to make whatever redress is possible".

We wouldn't be surprised if this real life story is taken up as a theme by an enterprising film producer in Hollywood.

### CHILDREN'S FILMS

Brussels, April 2.

Brussels will shortly have an international centre for children's films supported by the

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**Looks like a very weak and unconvincing boxing situation which usually leads to a new partnership. Let us see what Motilal and Geeta Bali are about in "Lalten", a social theme produced by Harish Productions.**

Belgian Government and receiving a grant of $5000 from UNESCO.

The proposed centre will coordinate information on the production, distribution and exhibition of films for children and young people. It will help in preparing different language versions of children's films to encourage goodwill between different countries.

Secretary Mahendra Nath of our "Babalog" Film Society should also put in some effort to get an UNESCO grant.

### EXEMPLARY

Lahore, March 28.

The Deputy Director of Excise and Taxation imposed a fine of Rs. 22,000 on the proprietor of Malik Talkies, Bhati Gate, Lahore, on a charge of infringing Section 5 (1) of the Punjab Entertainment Duty Amendment Act, 1953, and Rule 10 of the Punjab Entertainment Duty Rules, 1936.

The officer who checked the cinema on January 16, found that torn parts of duty stamps had been used on 12 tickets in the Rs. 1-6-6 class.

Criminals like these must be punished. Many of our cinema proprietors, however, who are familiar with worse tricks, go scotfree because of indifferent checking by the authorities. In India the fine is collected by police officers in weekly instalments.

### MEDAL WINNER

Gwalior, April 2.

Raja Bhayya Poonchwale, the well-known musician of Gwalior who was awarded the President's Medal for Hindustani Vocal music, died after a short illness on April 1st at the age of 74.

Poonchwale was an exponent of the Bhatkhande system of Indian music in Gwalior. He was Principal of the Gwalior Music College from 1941 to 1952.

### ANOTHER TAMASHA

New Delhi, April 11.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice President of India, inaugurated a seven-day drama seminar in New Delhi organized by the Sangeet Natak Akadami on April 1.

Leading authors and dramatists from all over India participated in the seminar. Some of them were Dr. V. Raghavan of Madras, Mama Warerkar, Mr. Mathur, Mr. Chandravadan Mehta, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, etc, who read scholarly papers on the state of the theatre in Sanskrit, Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati, and Punjabi.

Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Vice Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akadami, speaking at the drama seminar, said that the Akadami had decided to set up a school for dramaturgy. A committee would soon be set up to draw up a concrete scheme.

Mr. Sachin Sen Gupta, the playwright-director of the Seminar, assured the delegates that the concrete suggestions about drama in India would be forwarded to the Government and the Akadami for suitable action.

The suggestions, to be sure, will be put in cold storage. We know the fate of all seminars and the drama seminar also will not lead us anywhere.

### ONE MORE

Bombay, April 5.

Charming Krishna Kapoor, wife of popular actor Raj Kapoor, is expecting a visit from the stork.

This will be their fourth joint production. Raj and Krishna have already three smart children, two sons and one daughter, Dabboo, Chintu and Rita.

Let us hope the new one adds more glory to the House of Kapoors.

### AGAIN THE AWARD

Westrex is a name millions of filmgoers are familiar with by virtue of its fine quality of sound recording that gives added emotion to the voices of their popular stars. This year the Sound Department of Todd-AO won the Award of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the best sound recording in 1955 for the film "Oklahoma".

Recordings on Westrex equipment have won twenty-three times in the twenty-six years that this Award has been established. During this period the sound departments of twelve different studios have been honoured by the Academy for the best achievement in sound recording.

### HER PRINCE CHARMING

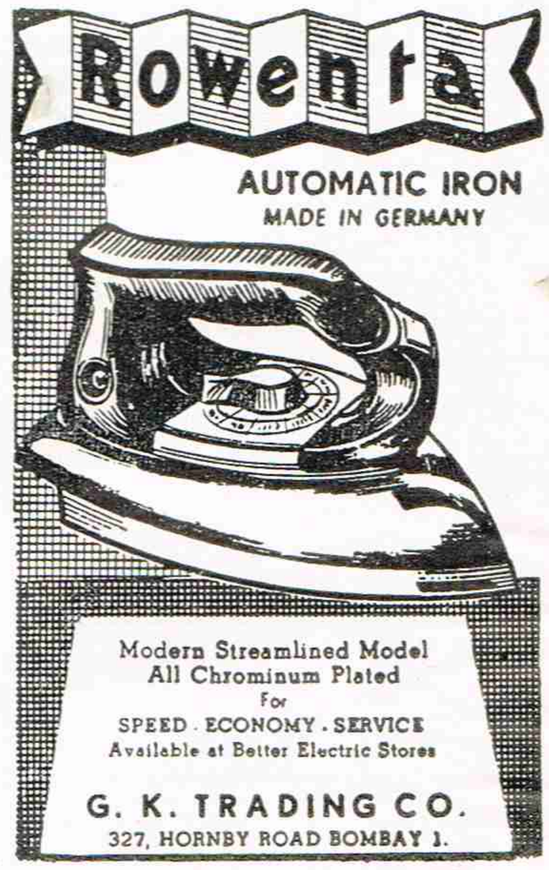
Monte Carlo, April 20.

Hollywood's favourite actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier of Monaco, 33, at a civil ceremony held in the elaborately decorated throne room of the Royal Palace, Monte Carlo, on April 18. It was one of the most publicized film weddings in recent memory and Grace looked an attractive bride. Representatives of twenty-five nations attended the ceremony.

Grace Kelly will now be called Her Serene Highness Grace Patricia, Princess of Monaco. She also has 22 other major titles and a number of smaller ones. In short, Grace became the First Lady of the six-square-mile Principality of Monaco.

On April 19, there was yet another religious marriage service in Monaco's tiny Roman Catholic cathedral.

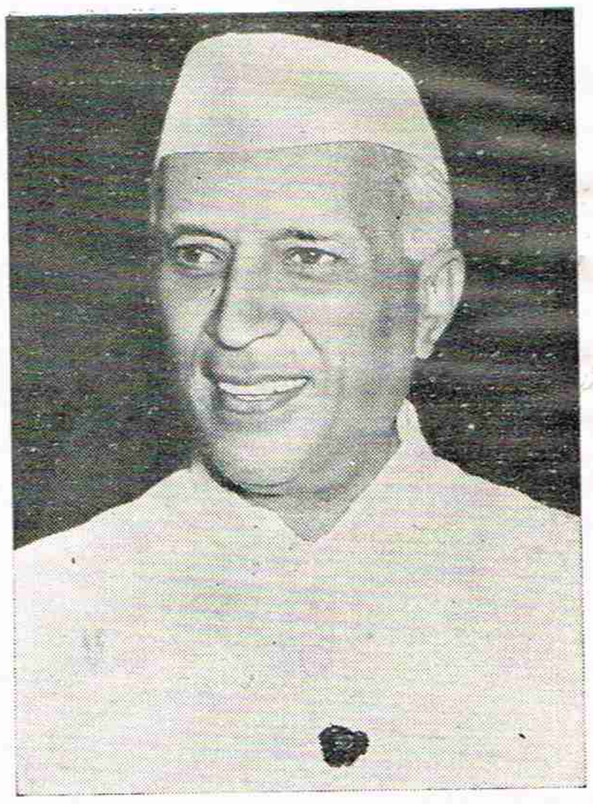
Let us hope Her Serene Highness Grace Patricia, Princess of Monaco, lives as happily as the princess in a fairy tale after she performs the important duty of giving an heir to the Monaco throne.



# REVIEWED IN HOLLYWOOD

by

Our Special Correspondent



**"This is not a malicious tirade against all pictures coming from Hollywood. This is a deliberate campaign only against bad and dangerous pictures—pictures which contain lust, crime, violence and other anti-social elements. Good pictures from Hollywood or from any other country are always welcome. Like all good things they sell themselves. But bad and dangerous pictures have to be pointed out to save our people from becoming degenerate and demoralised members of society. Hollywood producers have turned America into a big colony of violent and sadistic criminals. This section is therefore intended to prevent that tragedy in our peace-loving, non-violent country". Baburao Patel.**

**THE LAST HUNT (MGM)**

**CAST: Robert Taylor, Stewart Granger, Debra Paget**

For providing a head-reeling, stomach-upsetting dose of violence and brutality, MGM's "The Last Hunt" is excelled by few other pictures ever made by Hollywood. It is a picture which provides raw, ruthless and flaming violence and frames the story of a man who is a concentrated essence of hate, malice and brutality and who kills because killing to him is fun, ecstasy and an obsession without which he just cannot do. The angle on violence in this new Hollywood nightmare is rather unusual because the picture depicts the wanton extermination of the American buffalo during the 1880's and specially one man's insane and unquenchable lust to kill the animals. That man is portrayed by Robert Taylor who is devoted to the ruthless and unending slaughter of buffalo herds and who mows down Red Indians with the same sadistic delight with which he destroys buffaloes. He is no less murderous when dealing with his close associates and no less brutal when demonstrating his lust for women. He is a man who "doesn't carry a gun; the gun carries him", and who finds in killing a joy that is like "being with a woman". The picture is out and out a gory and bloody affair, and the scenes of the actual killing of the buffaloes and of other violence, particularly a fierce barroom brawl, are likely to leave one filled with revulsion. This bloody, brutal picture must most certainly be kept out of India, and we trust the Censors will ban "The Last Hunt" without a second thought.

The story has Robert Taylor, a big-scale killer of Red Indians in the past and now a buffalo-hating master of slaughter, picking up a partner in Stewart Granger for hunting buffaloes and selling the hides. Granger, himself an expert buffalo killer, is a man with a streak of humanity who is completely sick of killing the animals but who joins Taylor for the sake of money after his herd of cattle is destroyed by buffaloes.

**"By and large the pervasive influence of films is very great. It is not only pervasive but also widespread. Its influence may not be as deep as those of books, yet it is a strong influence in moulding the lives of people.....I am clear in my mind that crime and horror stories should be suppressed ruthlessly. Such stories were a hundred per cent bad, causing sadistic crimes. Such films encouraged children to murder for the sake of pleasure. No government or society should allow such things to flourish. Government ought to take ruthless action to prevent something turning into an instrument of evil." Prime Minister Nehru at the Film Seminar on February 27, 1955.**

Hiring Russ Tamblyn, a half-breed Red Indian youth, and Lloyd Nolan, a peg-legged drink addict, as skinners, the two partners head for the buffalo country. But soon Granger is regretting his decision to join Taylor in the hunt because he is averse to the elimination of the buffalo from the American plains and because he doesn't like the Red Indians facing more hardships by the buffalo-hunt. But Taylor continues to exult in the killing and when impoverished Indians steal their horses, Taylor kills the Indians mercilessly, retrieves the horses and drags back to the camp Debra Paget playing a young Sioux woman. Filled with lusty passion Taylor then makes rough advances to the woman but she remains cold and unresponsive thus enraging him more. As Taylor's brutal ways multiply, Granger becomes fed up with his partner's craze for hunting and killing and with his savage treatment of Debra, and at last he decides to help Debra in fleeing. But Taylor is quickly on the trail of Granger and Debra, and when Nolan and Tamblyn hinder his pursuit, he shoots Nolan dead and brutally beats up Tamblyn. He ultimately overtakes Granger and Debra but a snowstorm compels Taylor to wait till the morning for shooting them down, while Debra and Granger find a cover inside a mountain cave. But by morning Taylor is no more alive to satisfy his blood thirst, and Granger finds him frozen to death having used the moist hide of a freshly-killed buffalo as a cover. That leaves Granger and Debra, by now in silent love with each other, free to look forward to a better future.

**Final Verdict:** This gory and bloody picture, with its ever pervasive atmosphere of violence and brutality, is a sickening experience in the name of entertainment. The picture must be banned outright in India.

**THE PRICE OF FEAR (Universal-International)**

**CAST: Merle Oberon, Lex Barker, Warren Stevens**

This is an ugly, unpleasant crime picture containing a number of murders, a number of violent deaths, and trying to serve

**Is that a cat waiting or a woman? We must see Vyjayantimala in "Anjaan", a social tale, to find that out.**

entertainment through a show of crime and violence. There is a murderous racketeer, there is a shady lady, and there is the harassed hero who falsely confesses to having killed a man in an automobile accident so that he may escape being framed in a murder. The hero, trying to establish his innocence, traverses the usual trail strewn with shady and sinister characters and by the time he is about to nab the real culprits, it is time for the final flare up of violence. In the end, therefore, the picture reaps a harvest of three corpses. This disgusting crime picture can be advantageously banned by the Censors.

The story revolves round Lex Barker who owns a dog track in partnership with another. When the partner sells out his interest to Warren Stevens, a racketeer, Barker is indignant at his partner. Stevens, who wanted to take over the track, sets a killer on Barker's trail to finish him off. To escape from the killer Barker gets into a car and drives away without knowing that the car, which belonged to Merle Oberon, had fatally injured a pedestrian only a few moments before. Merle, who had run away after hitting the pedestrian, reports the theft of the car to the police hoping to escape responsibility for the accident. Barker is soon arrested with the stolen car but by this time Stevens had killed Barker's former partner in order to frame Barker in a murder case. Barker is charged with both the offences, the hit-and-run accident and the murder, but when he learns that both the crimes had taken place at the same time, Barker decides to plead guilty to the fatal accident charge in order to obtain an alibi in the murder case. After being released on bail Barker falls for Merle who pretends to be interested in him and concerned about establishing his innocence in the hit-and-run crime. Trying to keep her crime covered Merle is soon associating with Stevens, while Stevens commits another murder, that of a witness who could prove Barker's innocence. But before long Barker discovers Merle's association with Stevens and gets her to admit that she was responsible for killing the pedestrian. Pretending before Barker that she was going to surrender to the police, Merle manages to have Stevens and his henchman pounce upon Barker on the baggage car of a train. The crooks try to hurl him in front of an oncoming train, but Charles Drake, a detective friend of Barker, arrives in time to save him. In the ensuing gun duel, Stevens and his henchman are killed while Merle falls out of the baggage car and meets a violent death.

**Final Verdict:** This is a stinking crime picture filled with racketeers, murders and violent deaths, and deserves to be banned.

**OVER-EXPOSED (Columbia)**

**CAST: Cleo Moore, Richard Crenna**

"Over-Exposed" is another seamy, shady tale telling about a voluptuous and ambitious woman who begins as a B-girl leading a sordid life in shady joints, and manages to end as a wife. But in between the two ends, the voluptuous woman, impelled by her ambition, is constantly ready to be unscrupulous, to exploit her physical charms, to do little blackmails and to attempt big blackmails and involve herself in various troubles including receiving beatings from gangsters. This, on the whole, is a picture in which culturally and ethically there is little that can prove appealing or enlightening to Indians. And the Censors can very well keep this shady, sex-exploiting picture out of India.

The story picks up Cleo Moore, a sexy and down-and-out woman, leading a sordid life as a B-Girl in shady joints. Winning the friendship of Raymond Greenleaf, once a successful photographer but now dissipating his life in drink, Cleo learns to use a camera from him. After that she tries to find a break as a photographer in New York without any initial luck till she meets Richard Crenna, a news reporter, who manages to fix her as a camera girl in a night-club. Immediately after getting the job Cleo starts using her charms on the manager and soon has her rival girl photographer ousted from the place. She now decides to be more unscrupulous and try a bit of blackmail. She snaps a compromising photograph of Dayton Lummis who happens to be lawyer for Rudy Germaine, a powerful gangster. With that photograph Cleo succeeds in persuading Lummis to get her the camera girl's job in a fashionable night-club of Germaine. There by snapping and doctoring a flattering photograph of Isobel Elsom, a wealthy dowager, Cleo paves her way to money and success as a society photographer. But she meets ill luck again when Isobel dies of a heart attack while dancing and a photograph Cleo had taken of her just before her death is stolen by a gossip columnist who publishes it. That proves Cleo to be a greedy and unscrupulous photographer in the eyes of her society and Cleo is again impoverished. In desperation Cleo decides to blackmail none else than the gangster Germaine. She tries to blackmail Germaine into buying a photograph that was incriminating enough to send him to jail. Instead of yielding to the blackmail, Germaine assigns his henchmen to set her right and bring away the photo. The gangsters kidnap Cleo and give her a severe beating but she is rescued by Crenna after a fierce scene of blazing guns and snapping bones. In the end, Cleo tells the police all she knows about Germaine and then looks forward to a happy married life with Crenna.

**Final Verdict:** This shady tale of an unscrupulous voluptuous woman can be safely kept away from India. Besides, Hollywood should not be allowed to teach our photographers blackmail.

**BACKLASH (Universal-International)**
**CAST: Richard Widmark, Donna Reed**

"Backlash" is a blood-soaked package of raw violence. From beginning to end it is a crowded affair of fights, gun duels, killings and murders. The excuse for the exhibition of the naked violence is provided in a plot which deals with a man who, having escaped the massacre that befell his other five companions, has disappeared with $60,000 in gold belonging to the group. Hunting for the missing man is, among others, a tough, gun-toting ex-soldier who believes that his father, whom he has never seen, was among those murdered. After a lengthy, blood-washed trail the soldier reaches this sinister man only to discover that the man is none else than his father. That discovery is attended by more bloodshed and more violence. It is the kind of entertainment in which Hollywood specializes. It is the kind of entertainment which decent people cannot stomach, and which our Censors should not fail to ban outright.

The story, set in the post-Civil War years, has Richard Widmark, an ex-Confederate soldier, trying to solve a massacre in which Apaches had finished off five men in Arizona. Widmark believes his father was one of the five murdered men and is therefore bent on wreaking vengeance. As he comes to the scene of the massacre Widmark runs into Donna Reed who too is interested in the massacre mystery because her husband was with those murdered. In addition to her husband, Donna is also trying to trace $60,000 in gold that were in the possession of the group. Joined by Donna, Widmark continues the investigation and soon Widmark is forced to kill two of three murderous brothers who cross his path engaged in their own hunt for the missing gold. Now Barton MacLane, a cavalry sergeant who had looked after the burial of the five victims, puts it into Widmark's head that there must have been a sixth man with the group who had decamped with the gold. So Widmark now heads for Texas looking for this sixth man. On the way Roy Roberts, a rancher, tells Widmark that the man he is looking for is John McIntire, the head of a gang of cattle rustlers. Hurrying along on his hunt Widmark is soon face to face with McIntire and is shocked to learn that McIntire is his father, whom he had seen only in childhood. McIntire tries to deny the accusations against him but Widmark finds it difficult to believe him and finally decides to pit himself against his father who sought to kill cattlemen in an ambush. In the final burst of violence McIntire murderously attacks Widmark but is himself shot dead by a rancher. That leaves Widmark and Donna free to pursue a pleasanter future together.

**Final Verdict:** This is a disgusting show of raw, roaring violence pandering to the savage instincts of picturegoers. This dangerous picture must be banned by the Censors without any hesitation.

**THE COME ON (Allied Artists)**
**CAST: Anne Baxter, Sterling Hayden, John Hoyt**

This is a seamy, sordid and distasteful tale of greed, murder and blackmail. It tells about a sexy, unscrupulous woman and a sadistic, ruthless man who together operate a blackmailing racket till a third character comes to win the sexy woman's love and add more crime to their already criminal careers. And then the tale proceeds punctuated by murder, double-cross and dynamite explosions finally ending in twin murders. This sordid mixture of sex, crime and violence constitutes an extremely

**Motion picture producers discover new races in our old land every day. We seem to be having some Red Indians in India—a discovery over which no one had stumbled before. And these Red Indians dance too as we see Nadira doing in "Sipah Salar", a romantic thriller.**

unwholesome and unpalatable picture that deserves to be banned by the Censors without the slightest hesitation.

The story has Sterling Hayden, a fisherman owning a small fishing craft, meeting the sexy and inviting Anne Baxter on a Mexican beach and soon falling into embrace and love with her. Subsequently Hayden discovers that Anne is madly in love with money and runs a blackmailing racket in partnership with John Hoyt by posing as Hoyt's wife and trapping wealthy victims. Having really fallen in love with Hayden, Anne decides to quit the racket in order to marry Hayden, but she is not willing to let go her share in the money obtained in the blackmailing racket. When she demands from Hoyt half of the crooked funds, Hoyt refuses and warns her that he will expose her before the police if she tried to leave him. Hoyt then takes her to California where they are followed by Hayden. Anne tries to enlist Hayden's aid in a scheme to kill Hoyt by dynamiting his boat. Unwilling in the beginning, Hayden agrees to help her after she receives a beating from Hoyt. Anne goes and buys dynamite and wiring but Jesse White, a crooked private detective assigned to shadow her by the suspicious Hoyt, reports her activities to Hoyt who in turn decides to double-cross her by offering $10,000 to Hayden and asking her to leave Anne. Hayden grabs the money and dissuades Anne from her murderous scheme. Meanwhile Hoyt blows up his own boat with dynamite and himself disappears in circumstances that should make out Anne to be Hoyt's murderess. Anne and Hayden are arrested by the police but the crooked White secures their release by providing them with an alibi. Using the photographs he had taken of Anne purchasing the dynamite, White then forces Anne to part with $10,000. But for the trouble White is shot dead by Anne who then rushes to Mexico with Hayden. An unpleasant surprise she meets in Mexico is Hoyt, still alive and still ruthless. Anne then takes up the gun again and shoots Hoyt wounding him fatally but Hoyt refuses to die before he in turn has wounded Hayden and shot Anne to leave her dying in her lover's arms and on the same spot where the lovers had begun their romance.

**Final Verdict:** A sordid tale of murder, double-cross and blackmail with emphasis on sex and sensationalism, this picture constitutes a highly objectionable piece of entertainment and our Censors must ban it outright.

**Youth is a challenge in itself, beauty adds design to it. Doesn't Madhubala look irresistible in "Najma", a romantic tale?**

*Letters submitted for this section should not have more than 25 lines. Rs.5/- will be paid for every letter published in this section.*

### DEFAMING A CITY

"Once upon a time I used to think of Bombay as a dream city. Now I do not.

"The process of disillusionment has necessarily been gradual. First of all came Morarji, then came Prohibition. But if it were merely Morarji and the bootlegging, it wouldn't be much, as every place has its own Morarji—and then, I don't drink. On the other hand, I have come to know that Bombay's main assets are "Awaaras" and "Shri 420's", who bump into you at every corner, and anon! some valuable property of yours changes pockets. I know that you can't hire a cab without endangering yourself because the "Taxi Driver" though with a face like Dev Anand's or Guru Dutt's might well be an agent of the underworld. Then, it is no consolation to know that while the criminals of Bombay are mere crooks, the supposed pillars of the society are the very dregs, who either run bogus companies or a gang of thugs!! Did you mention the police? — the very police that arrives on the scene only when the accused has finished the big speech (or waits patiently while he does so) and then asks non-chalantly: "Yeh sab kya ho raha hai", instead of switching on the handcuffs? A friend of mine lives at Marine Drive—supposed to be one of the most posh localities of the city until I came to know the other day that it harbours cut-throats and homicidal maniacs!!

"For all this and other disillusioning information about Bombay I am grateful to the Indian film producers. The said information, I have reasons to say, is also confirmed by the Censor Board.

"You can keep your Bombay to yourself."

NEW DELHI. **Nisha Sahai.**

### YOUR RIGHT TO EXPRESS

"I know you have no guts to publish this letter yet I must tell you that I was really shocked by your silly editorial in the March issue of "filmindia".

"I wonder how a man like you can be so shallow and unconvincing in his arguments. Your ideas are not only scandalous but vulgar. Behind this facade of a film magazine you are carrying on your shameless and vicious propaganda. If you have got any courage and political convictions you better change the name "filmindia" and come out in the open arena of political journalism. That would also avoid the pain that responsible persons who read such magazines for purely entertainment purposes feel from your ugly outbursts. Certainly, you have a right to express your views but I request you to be a bit serious and to the point instead of vaguely beating about the bush.

"I was also amused to read the letters published in this issue. What a ring of flatterers you have created about you! Some of them have expressed most idiotic yet funny ideas not only about pictures like "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" but also about national problems. I really pity their banality.

"However, I must congratulate you for your picture review in this issue.

"Hoping not to offend you."

7A|61 Karol Bagh,
West Extension Area,

NEW. DELHI. **V. S. Trivedi.**

### LET SCHOLARS ANSWER

"The article by Mr. Sudhakar Raje on "Aeroplanes In Ancient India" in the March issue was undoubtedly unique and most interesting, but I cannot help refuting some of the claims and suggestions made therein.

"I am as devoted a lover and admirer of ancient India as anyone else, but I care for truth and commonsense even more. I myself believe in the possibilities of the existence of ages as scientifically advanced as ours which might have been terminated by self-destruction by man as would inevitably take place again in the event of any total nuclear war. The incredible progress made by science within a few centuries is sufficient to prove that gifted man can master the mysteries of nature in a miraculously short time. It seems

She could push him back with her nose if necessary but then Madhubala uses a rapier at a wrong angle to keep Ajit away in "Najma", a thrilling romantic adventure.

quite probable that there have been cycles of civilisation built up by science and ultimately annihilated by its own demoniac power. Quite a few universal holocausts might have destroyed mankind at the end of various eras in his history. All this is, of course, purely conjectural, but there is nothing to prove that it could not be so. Anything might have happened long, long ages ago. One is free to indulge in any fancies and put forward any theories about these antediluvian aeons of which no one knows anything.

"But it is a different matter when we come to historical times. The statement quoted by Mr. Raje that aeroplanes were being used for military and commercial purposes in India 12 centuries ago is, to my mind, utter bilge. It is true that the ancient Hindus possessed great scientific imagination and many of their guesses and theories are surprisingly ingenious and correct, but in practical application they made little headway. No one disputes that in many theoretical and applied sciences like astronomy, architecture, engineering, mathematics, medicine, etc., they were more advanced than other peoples of that period, but that is not to say their scientific knowledge and achievements can compare with ours. The science of dynamics, in particular, which has made tremendous strides since the time of Newton, was comparatively non-existent in India or any other ancient country. It would be idle to pretend otherwise. We have adequate records of conditions of life and the state of knowledge in India since the time of Alexander. Nowhere is there any mention of any vehicles drawn by power on the ground, let alone aeroplanes in the air. Descriptions of fanciful imagination cannot prove or amount to actual discovery. Wonderful and convincing accounts of interplanetary travels and wars have been given by talented authors but these are not sufficient basis for future readers to conclude that these things must have existed in our time. The works of Bharadwaja and others might contain many pregnant scientific ideas and may speak highly of their imaginative powers of invention, but I do not think they furnish any proof of the existence of aeroplanes, television and other modern gadgets in those ancient days. Incidentally, is it not strange that those who had achieved all this and gone much ahead of us, could not think of such an obvious, comparatively very simple and extremely useful invention as printing? The ideas may coincide, the descriptions may convince, but let us not see in our venerable old manuscripts the peak of science and the perfection of everything! If Mr. Raje has meant it to be an entertaining article with an amount of plausibility, I can take it in that spirit; but otherwise I have to declare that much of it is ridiculous and preposterous. Do you believe, Mr. Patel, that there were aeroplanes, television, etc. in India during historical times?"

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

### WHO WANTS PEACE?

"No one in India is likely to be taken in by the pious sentiments expressed by the American Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles. His announcement that the U.S.-Pakistan treaty permits of American aid to India in the event of an attack by Pakistan is meaningless in the face of large scale military aid to Pakistan. One may ask how is Pakistan either at the present moment or in the foreseeable future likely to face a large scale invasion from any quarter?

"It does not require much of intelligence to see that the object of Pakistan in joining the SEATO and the Baghdad Pact is to get as much military aid from the Western Bloc as possible and then try to browbeat India into submission on the several issues pending between the two. Any attempts by anyone at upsetting the present military balance between India and Pakistan cannot but be looked upon with disfavour in this country. Those who are going ahead with increasing the military strength of Pakistan in the hope that it will be used against Communist aggression show complete ignorance of the political climate in the sub-continent of India.

"If the U.S.A. and Britain are keen on maintaining peace in India, the only way lies in allowing India and Pakistan to settle their problems by mutual talks: aiding either party will result in the other becoming reluctant to adopt a reasonable attitude. The sooner it is realised in the West that India is truly a peace-loving nation and that all her policies are aimed at furthering the cause of peace in the world the better it will be for all concerned. Pandit Nehru in his policy of peace

Helen, the heart-throb of Punjabi producers, hops from picture to picture as she runs around throwing her smiles. She does some fine step-work in "Lale Yaman", an old Persian romance.

**That is a new fighting pose. But why pose when batties are won before they are fought? The strength of women lies in the weakness of men. Nimmi brings new excitement to the screen in "Bhai Bhai", a social tale produced by AVM.**

has the unanimous support of the nation. The man who has put up with the pin-pricking of Portugal so long is surely not the man to give up peace at any time!"

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

### REALLY?

"Topkhana Bazar in Ambala Cantt. has a Shiva mandir-cum-gurdwara in the same building. One night, last month (February), the Akali managers of the Gurdwara allegedly uprooted the "tulsi" plant, threw out the idols and demolished the platform of the idols. Next morning the whole city was sorely agitated over the incident. This is a small incident but it is serious. It is particularly serious because it follows a certain set pattern to separate the Sikhs from the parent body of Hinduism.

"As early as the twenties the Akalis effaced Hindu paintings from the Golden Temple, Amritsar, and so forced non-Sikhs to build a separate Gurdwara, the famous Durgiania Mandir. Only recently they did the same in Morena. And now comes Ambala.

"The Akali leaders may talk volubly of "Hindu-Sikh unity" but their actions betray them. Their flirtation with Pakistan, their support of Abdullah's stand in Kashmir, and their defence of the proselytizing activities of foreign missionaries show a certain method in their madness. On more than one occasion they have betrayed their real intentions about "Punjabi Suba" by saying that they want a "Sikh State". Master Tara Singh has even suggested exchange of population!

"The Akalis do not like to be compared to Muslim Leaguers. But I fear that by their word and deed, they are only lending support to the comparison and confirming

**Madhubala does not like our measuring the length of her nose but photographic art lies in making a long nose short. Since her sister brought a Parsi home, the noses in Madhubala's family have grown longer. Let us see how Madhubala looks in "Najma", a romantic entertainer.**

our worst fears. I hope the Akalis realize the seriousness of their own actions."

BOMBAY. **Hariram G. Jugat.**

### CALLING LAL BAHADUR

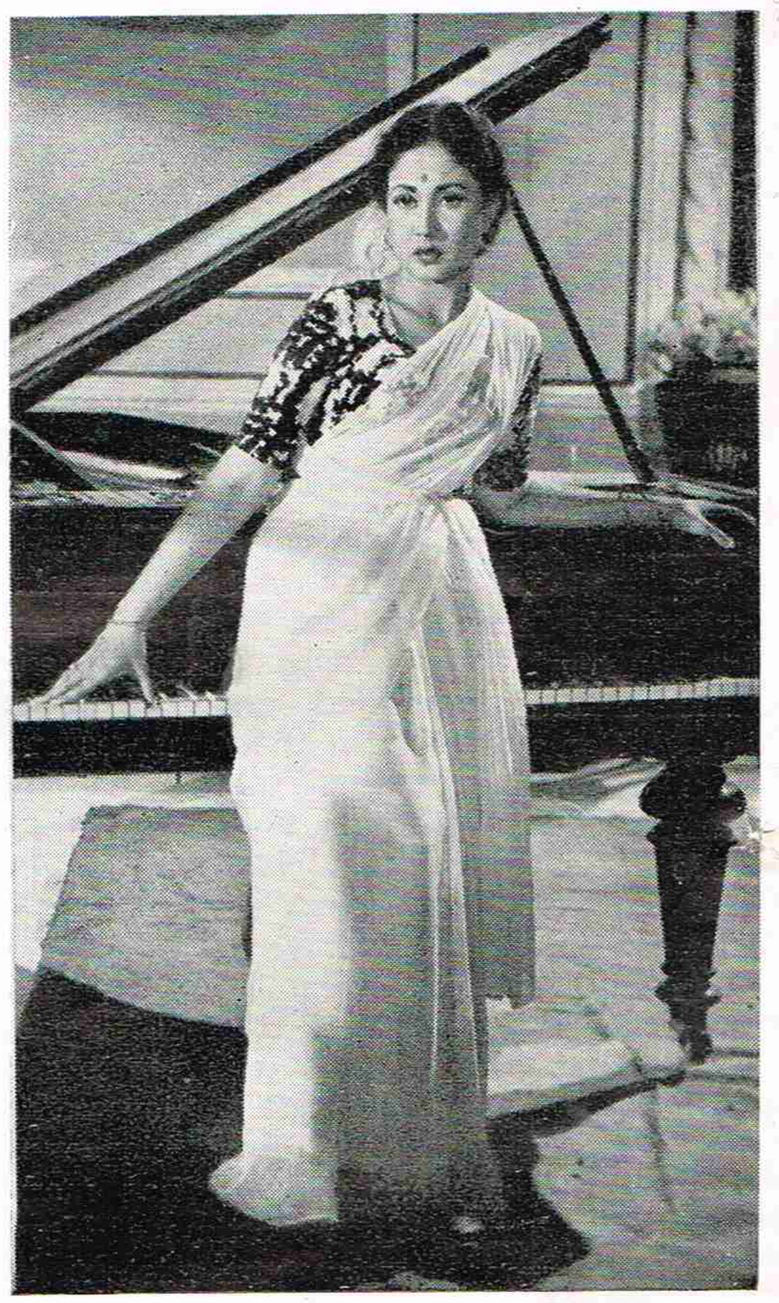
"Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's recent statement in the Lok Sabha that the sale of books on sex at the railway bookstalls is going to be stopped, deserves our special praise. It is needless to say what harm such literature has already done to our society. The time has now come, when such steps should be taken to lodge a campaign against it. The number of persons, who travel daily in trains is very large and the sale of books and periodicals at the railway bookstalls also quite considerable. By stopping the sale of such harmful and dirty literature on sex at the railway stations, it is hoped that much useful work will be done in this direction.

"In this connection, I have another suggestion to make. On the railway platforms of all big railway stations, advertisements of films are exhibited at very prominent places. Before accepting such advertisements, the railway authorities should make sure that only the advertisements of such films are accepted for publicity, which are good and have a healthy influence on the public, for bad films are as harmful as dirty books on sex; rather more dangerous than that. I hope, therefore, that our learned Minister for Railways will consider this suggestion also."

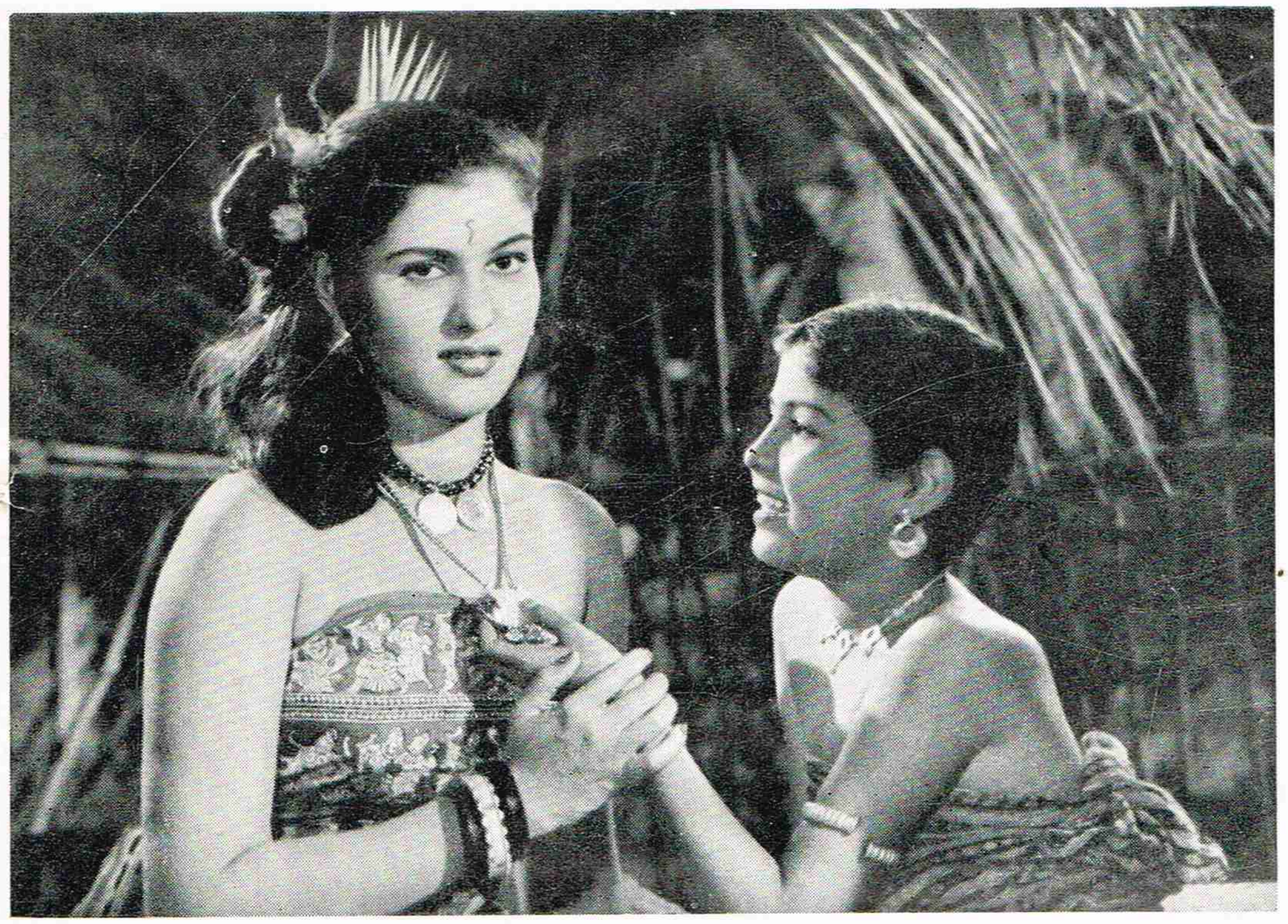
NEW DELHI. **G. C. Sharma.**

### THE LOFTY KASHMIRI

"Recently our great grand Prime Minister, in one of his usual soap-box speeches, described the "white collared gentry" as useless which is rather painful, for the words are from our Prime Minister. Our lovely leader doesn't know that this so-called white collar gentry comprises the majority of the lower middle-class which forms the backbone of the nation.



**Some women keep their scared look pretty long because they associate it with their vulnerable modesty. Meena Kumari gives a good performance in "Shatranj", an unusual tale of love.**



**Are we going Balinese? Or is Kamrup stretching its frontiers? Anyway Shashikala looks an attractive proposition, in spite of that child, in "Pyar ka Geet", a romantic thriller produced by Famous Pictures Ltd.**

"Who can deny that it is this class of people who is carrying on the grim and silent struggle for existence—unflinchingly and without shouting from house-tops? Their burden of life is ever increasing due to sky-high prices of things necessary for carrying on their existence but still they go on toiling patiently in the sweet and luring hope of a better and brighter future. Having no other capital except their brains and whatever little education they can have through their limited means, they are facing the hard struggle of life bravely.

"But beneath their white collars which are often home-pressed lie their shirts which are frayed and torn. Their suits and attires are shabby yet they have to look decent because they are a class of intelligentsia and must live up to a certain standard. They have never cried or flinched from their duty to gain something by hunger-strikes; they have always gratefully accepted whatever is offered to them; they are unable to bring up their future—their children—in good educational institutions and can't provide the proper nourishment. And yet our Prime Minister describes them as useless. I say, can't Pandit Nehru see things properly realizing all the aspects around?"

JULLUNDUR. **Ram L. Nakra.**

### PLEASE, PLEASE, DEARS!

"Aren't women crazy? They diet like mad, use all sorts of aids to improve their figures, and then they wear coats as shapeless as sacks, drain-pipe trousers, that defy description—and now the H-line. Ladies please!"

BOMBAY. **Miss C. Chandramani.**

### ASK CHACHA NEHRU

"I read your March editorial with considerable interest. Now that I have found somebody to support my views, may I ask the Congress Party as to what is the use of wasting lakhs of rupees every year over Congress sessions? Congress claims to be the party of the people. Well, the money wasted on organizing a huge procession around Mr. Dhebar, the president-in-jeep, can well be spent on a million deserving charities of the country which would benefit more people than those collecting at a Congress session.

"Mr. Nehru jeers at Akalis' "Tamasha" but it sounds hollow when his own party organizes a gala "Tamasha" every year for those who want to come. Why, for the love of Mike, can't he have a simple, solemn function — Congress is still important enough for its session to be headline news —and invest the funds saved in the Prime Minister's Fund to which we are called upon to contribute at the end of every rainy season. Or is the Congress so politically bankrupt that it has got to attract people with publicity rather than politics, with processions rather than party programmes, with frivolity and not facts, hard and unpalatable, which would open the eyes of every smug, sleep-walking Congressman of the country?"

NEW DELHI. **Indra Mohan Sahai.**

### AMBASSADOR AAWARA

"Raj Kapoor should be proud of his picture "Aawara" seeing how the story affected the people here. After the release of "Aawara" some boys of East Street here formed a gang and named it "Aawara Gang". All the boys dressed like Raj in "Aawara" and each of the gang thought himself to be a Raj.

"In the evenings when the streets are silent they rob pedestrians. If anyone refuses to give them money they give blows or beat the pedestrian severely. They kiss any beautiful lady that happens to pass from East Street. They steal cakes, cigarettes, whisky, beer bottles, etc., from street hawkers and even run away with the parked cars.

"The police is always after the "Aawara Gang" but so far very few have been caught and punished. In short "Aawara" has affected the Indonesian and Chinese people badly. We have to urge the government to ban such pictures especially those of Raj Kapoor."

PANGKAL PINANG. **G. D. Nandvani.**

### SINCERITY IS PRAYER

"How proud must Bharat Mata be feeling of her son Judas! I heartily congratulate Judas on his most timely article "Are Producers Sincere?" in "filmindia", March 1956. He has suggested a wonderfully easy, practicable and profitable means

**Women cannot stand straight these days because we are in the labour of a cultural revival all over the country. Anita Guha is no exception in "Yahudi-ki-Beti".**

of establishing the film industry. Tears came into my eyes, as I read the following most sincere words, "And that is a prayer we address to those to whom God has been good and gracious." What a selfless prayer! What makes Judas do so? Can't we learn something from Judas and become at least one hundredth as sincere as he is to our nation?"

AMRITSAR. **Prithipal.**

### NEHRU CHACHA

"In December 1951 I was standing in the foyer of Rivoli Cinema in New Delhi on Christmas Eve waiting to see the film "King Solomon's Mines". The morning show was about to finish and there was a good number of persons waiting for the noon show. Then an open car stopped outside the cinema and out came three little kids between the ages of six and eight, obviously belonging to some foreign embassy. All the three were attired in cow-boy suits with pistols in leather holsters fixed to their belts. They had one attendant who led them to the staircase. They had hardly gone a couple of steps when something seemed to have gone wrong with the servant. Immediately one of the children whipped out his pistol and fired at the poor fellow. A wave of uneasiness and alarm went through the people in the foyer and many a woman trembled with fear on hearing the shot but soon everybody realized that the children were playing with only toy pistols that make much noise but do not kill. And last night when I saw "Ek Hi Rasta", the whole scene described above again flashed into my mind.

"It is a matter of great regret that the author of "Ek Hi Rasta" is Pandit Mukhram Sharma, otherwise known as a good and convincing story writer. Leave alone the adult filth that little Disey Irani is made to spit in the film, the way the child has been dressed as a cow-boy and given a revolver to handle and shoot many times for fun and frenzy, the film richly deserves to be uncertified for public exhibition in India even now, its theme and thespians notwithstanding. Americans are still reaping the harvest of adolescent criminals thanks to the seeds sown by Hollywood films but we in India can never afford this crime-for-fun mania.

"The producers have disgraced themselves with this film and the Censors have once again conveniently slept over their duties. The one person who must see "Ek Hi Rasta" is Prime Minister Nehru, the man who was shocked to see comics in the hands of his grandchildren. Let him witness for himself the incompetency of his Censors and visualize the scene when, following in the footsteps of Disey Irani, grandson Sanjiv comes before him with a real pistol in his hand to have some fun with India's destiny. We shudder at the very thought of the possible consequences but who cares?"

AJMER. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

**Crazy men also interest women. A woman likes a man to be multi-sided, for to her monotony would mean death. And when a woman does not get a many-in-one man, she looks out for a man too many. Watch this interlude between Johnny Walker and Shyama in "Chhoo Mantar", a ticklish entertainer produced and directed by M. Sadiq.**

**Anjali has an intense look but it has both warmth and mischief—attributes that make a girl an attractive proposition. Let us see what she does in "Naya Admi", a social tale produced by Jupiter Pictures Ltd.**

### CHINESE PUZZLE

"According to the "New York Times" China's Prime Minister Chou En Lai cabled a warning to India's Prime Minister Nehru that there might be an attempt on his life during his Bombay visit. I would not try to solve the Chinese puzzle of how the Chinaman got his information. I would only like to know the exact location of the city of Bombay. Is it in Chou's China, where Nehru's safety would have been Chou's concern, or in "war mongering" America, where fellow-travelling Nehru's safety mighty conceivably be in danger? Neither. It is in India that is Bharat. Then how is it that Chou's agent beat Nehru's C.I.D. men who heavily surround him wherever he goes? Can you solve this puzzle, Mr. Patel?

BOMBAY. **Hariram G. Jugat.**

### NEHRU AND KESKAR

"There are many who believe that the charges of corruption and nepotism levelled against those running the great and good government of independent India are vague or grossly exaggerated and generally made by disgruntled critics and despicable Tory Fox hunters. But in "Farce And Favouritism" in the March issue, Judas has given an instance fully supported by facts and figures. It is indeed a shame and a shock that even such a body

**Every woman bends these days to show her curves and calls it a dance. We don't care for the dance, we like the devil. This one is called Anita Guha and we see her in "Lale Yaman".**

as the Public Services Commission which is supposed to be entirely above board should have become one more of our tragic "tamashas" under Dr. Keskar, Panditji's trusted colleague.

"The friendship between Dr. Keskar and Shri Dilip Kothari is by itself most praiseworthy and fit to be emulated as a noble example of amity among Maharashtrians and Gujaratis, two of the new warring communities in secular India. But favouritism was not the way by which it should have been preserved and strengthened. I have nothing against Shri Dilip Kothari who may be an excellent individual for all I know. What concerns us is not the person but the principle. Corruption and nepotism in any form undermine the efficiency of the government and the morale of the people and it is the duty of conscientious and civic-minded citizens to oppose them tooth and nail. We cannot be expected to have respect for and trust in a government and its departments if these sort of things are allowed to go on merrily. Dr. Keskar, who is so anxious to purify our taste in music, would be rendering an immensely greater service by stopping this rot which will harm the country even more than vulgar songs and situations from the films. Will Judas' impassioned appeal to Nehru to go into this serious state of things prove a cry in the wilderness ? It is true that Nehru is too busy with his endless plans and engagements to attend to such a "trivial matter" but is it not the paramount duty of a good Prime Minister to root out corruption and inefficiency from the administration?"

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

## KESKAR'S PARTY NEWSREELS

"'Corpses Of Fear' in the March issue was a masterly editorial in your inimitable manner and was the legitimate sequel to your "Rushing To The Rocks" written last year before the great experiment of States Reorganization was launched. It is an edifying but not a consoling reflection that there would have been no occasion for the "Corpses of Fear" editorial if your timely warning in "Rushing To The Rocks" had been taken. But then foresight and wisdom have not been the strong points of Congressmen. They commit the blunders and the nation pays for them. It would be much better for the country if, instead of boasting of their achievements, Congressmen tried to profit by their mistakes. But have we heard of the corrupting influence of power which makes men overconfident and arrogant?

"What surprised me very much, however, was Pandit Nehru's reference to the Akali procession as an "Ajeeb Tamasha". It is pertinent to note that perhaps no other party in the history of the world has specialized so much in processions as the Congress has, both before and after independence. Coming from the leader of that party and the enlightened and broad-minded head of a progressive, democratic state, this remark sounds incredibly undignified and ridiculous. Of course, Pandit Nehru did not deny the right of the Akalis to take out their colourful processions but even that he should have made such an observation is a discredit to his reputed intelligence and breadth of mind. Naturally one suspects that it stemmed from jealousy of the far more successful Akali show. We did not expect it from Panditji at least. This is surely indicative that even our great Prime Minister, of whom we have many reasons to be proud, has lately undergone some warping of the mind. It is natural that we should feel somewhat unhappy.

"Incidentally, in the film newsreel also, only the Congress Conference was shown and picturegoers were disappointed not to get even a glimpse of the "Akali Tamasha" with its elephants, bearded Sikhs and beautiful Sardarnis. This would not only have provided a welcome relief after the sad and serious session of the Amritsar Congress, but would have created a very good impression in the minds of the people about the justice and fairness of the Congress rulers. Or is there any democratic tradition that only the activities of the party in power should be shown in newsreels?"

BOMBAY **S. R. Badanidiyoor.**

## NEHRU'S BHARAT NATYAM

"Even before the publication of the S.R.C. Report, you very aptly stated that the division of India on linguistic basis will not do this country any good. Ever since the publication of the Report you have been reiterating, time and again, in your own inimitable way, the utter uselessness of our going about this job.

"Truth does not stale with repetition and to add to all that flowed from your powerful pen on the subject, the one under the caption "Corpses of Fear" appearing in the March 1956 issue of "filmindia" requires the most careful thought and consideration. Although the question of reorganization of States is a fait accompli now, yet that did not prevent you from voicing your considered opinion in the matter. In this, I have no doubt that you have the fullest support of no less a person than Rajaji, the sagacious, far-sighted and elder statesman of India. If Nehru can do this even

**Food needs a new disguise every time, for food in the film industry gets impatient very soon. Gajanan Jagirdar, our great character actor, approaches food in an army uniform, hiding his own face with a beard, in "Talaash", a romantic adventure.**

at this late hour, it would forever remain the most outstanding and epoch making event in the history of India and may even change the course of her destiny for better."

SECUNDERABAD. **A. V. Narasimhan.**

### I KNOW, HE DOESN'T

" 'Shelve the S.R.C. Report for 15 years!', 'Shelve the problem for 10 years!', 'Shelve it for 25 years!'

"These not-so-courageous slogans I was thinking all these months were nothing but nonsense (a favourite word of Nehru), or at the best a bluff. It was therefore a great pleasure for me to read what you have written in your editorial "Corpses of Fear": "SHELVE THE DAMN PROBLEM FOR EVER".

"For ever—that is it. Your readers and the general public are indebted to you for saying it so forcefully through your editorial. But, I am afraid, your final question: "Will Pandit Nehru muster up that little courage and save a nation from suicide?" will not be answered by Nehru and his Congress mules in the affirmative. If Nehru cannot shelve the problem for ever, let him at least keep the butchery pending till the next general elections are over. You know what I mean."

MADRAS. **S. T. Arasan.**

### HE DESERVED

"A friend of mine used to tell his small boy of four that if he did not behave, the policeman would be told about him. One day the boy was very naughty and father said he would definitely tell the policeman this time. Late in the day the small boy saw the policeman near his house and asked, "Has my father told you about me?" The policeman jokingly replied "Yes, he has told me all about you." "Well, I have something to tell you about my father", said the boy, "he hasn't got a radio licence." The luckless father was fined Rs. 20|-."

BOMBAY. **Miss C. Chandramani.**

**A woman's nose is a difficult gadget to photograph. A bad angle changes even the sex of a woman, leave alone her nationality. But then this picture of Arora is called "Halaku" and everything must be Halaku in it including Meena Kumari.**

**Any port in a storm is the general theme of Om Prakash's life. But Shyama is not just any port. It is an exclusive one. But let us not discuss ports. Let us see what the old sailor is about in "Bhai Bhai", a social theme produced by A. V. Meiyappan Chettiar for AVM Productions.**

### DIFFICULT PLEASING ALL

"I fully endorse the views expressed by Shri Tej Bahadur of Bombay in his letter published in "filmindia" of March 1956, regarding the qualities of the film "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje". I am also of the opinion that Director Shantaram's colour film has little to recommend itself to a mind that seeks a cogent and coherent development of the story, with the entertaining and elevating touches of art. The dance sequences, the exposition of which is reported to be the aim and purpose of the film, scarcely appeal to me as anything worthy to be called by that name. In a film full of dances, music has got an ample scope. But the songs of "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" do not in the least sound sweet and melodious. At least the initial song, from which the picture derives its title, should have been attractive.

"Another thing I would like to add here: Mr. Shantaram is considered to be a man of imagination and his 'Shantaram touch' is a well-known expression in the film field. There are a few such touches in this film also, which however much I may strain myself, fail to touch the appreciating chord of my heart. The imagination evinced in them is generally of a low order, almost always puerile and at times unhealthy. Perhaps, Shantaram's imagination was rich and fertile in the beginning of his career!"

POONA. **K. Ponnuswamy.**

### THEY SINK IN

"What Baburao Patel wrote in his editorial, "An Egg-and-Beer Nation" in September 1955 was echoed by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr. P. S. Deshmukh, on 26th February 1956 at Nagaur in Rajasthan. Inaugurating the All India Cattle Show, Mr. Deshmukh called upon the youth of Rajasthan to consume more and more eggs. He said that while in other countries the per capita consumption of eggs was as much as two hundred, in Rajasthan it was only four. He also informed the audience that in the Second Five-Year Plan period, the Government would start four poultry farms and two hundred extension centres. That is sense and wisdom which we wish every minister in India should have. So keep on, Babs, sooner or later your words are

Minoo Mumtaz is a "noo" one of Producer Arora. Watch her step on the screen in "Halaku".

bound to be transformed into action for he welfare of the country and humanity t large."

AJMER. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

### I AM RETIRING

"It is really a very painful sight to find housands of foreign books and periodicals isplayed in a riot of colour on our rail- vay bookstalls and other book depots. Perhaps these are allowed to be imported nder the mistaken notion of removing lliteracy and spreading education but it is n admitted fact that by allowing an un- estricted import of third rate and sexy ooks and periodicals we are not only en- ouraging the spread of sexy, passionate nd crime-filled American stories and hrills, dangerous foreign ideologies and einous crime fiction but also killing our wn authors, stifling our own publishers, tarving our printing presses and asphyxi- ting our book trade. And surely this is he most dangerous situation.

"We see millions of American and Rus- ian publications dumped on our market nd being sold in our streets for a few nnas and believe me those few annas will ot even pay for the cost of paper they re printed on but those few annas mounting to several million rupees merely o to the local agents. One wonders how our Government has religiously banned he display of female form in our films on ne side and allowed lewd sexy-woman- istol-passion-fights filled books to be im- orted freely on the other side. This con- radiction well deserves the attention of ur white-capped leaders.

"Your incessant struggle against Holly- wood trash is half complete, Mr. Patel. You can't ignore the other side of the picture—these filthy books containing the fatal germs of propaganda and crime. You won't like us to become a nation fed on imported ideologies. Rise up and lead us once again or are you tired of these hard-hearing Congressmen?"

JULLUNDUR. **Ram L. Nakra.**

### NO BASIC TALENT

"Under 'Bombay Calling' in the Febru- ary issue of "filmindia", Judas laments "The expenditure for maintaining a brood of princely parasites, utterly useless to the nation as princes or as persons". The 'nation' obviously seems to have no need for 'princes' so it is meaningless grumbling that they are no use 'as princes'. What efforts have been made to utilize them 'as persons'? Have any such efforts failed, if so when, where and how? If not, will Judas, in fairness, suggest to the nation the ways and means of making 'princes' useful as 'persons' and watch the results?"

DEHRA DUN. **J. N. Sahai.**

### LAL BAHADUR

"On the 23rd February, the Railway Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that during 1954-55 gross traffic receipts actually amounted to Rs. 286.78 crores, an improvement of Rs. 3.98 crores over the revised estimate, mainly under goods earnings.

"Ordinary working expenses came to Rs. 205.87 crores, an increase of Rs. 3.1 crores. The surplus for the year amount- ed to Rs. 9.1 crores as against the revised estimate of Rs. 6.57 crores, the entire amount being credited to the Development Fund.

"We do not bother about the surplus for the obvious reason that the budget of Rail- ways has been always a surplus one since its very inception.

"May I draw the kind attention of our Railway Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, through these columns of your esteemed journal "filmindia" for an early develop- ment of Sealdah Station, which deals with 200,000 passengers and receives 1,000 maunds of fish daily; handles about 4,000 outward and 5,000 inward parcels and 248 trains daily—the largest number reported to be handled by any single railway station in the world?

"For the information of the Honourable Minister, I would like to add that the rail- way station of Delhi, Bombay, Lucknow, Howrah and Madras are better off in every sense than that of the said Sealdah Station."

CALCUTTA. **J. L. Kholbheteria**

### NOT FROM KESKAR

"The present day Indian newsreels and other shorts produced by our Films Divi- sion are at once boring and colourless. They neither entertain nor educate because of their crude presentation.

**Dancing is a whole time profession in the movies and a wholesome one too when the girls get going. Meet Helen and Mumtaz in "Halaku", a costume tale of thrills and excitement.**

"The Indian newsreels fail in that you have to see some sort of an opening ceremony all the time. Well, opening ceremonies are not news, nor information nor education. Moreover in a place like Jullundur the little news we get in the Indian newsreels is about four months old.

"A filmgoer who pays the Entertainment Tax even though he is bored completely, would have his money's worth only when our Films Division comes out with some hot news and really interesting subjects.

"Can we expect this much from Dr. Keskar, Mr. Patel?"

JULLUNDUR. **Raj A. Chhugani.**

## CALLING MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

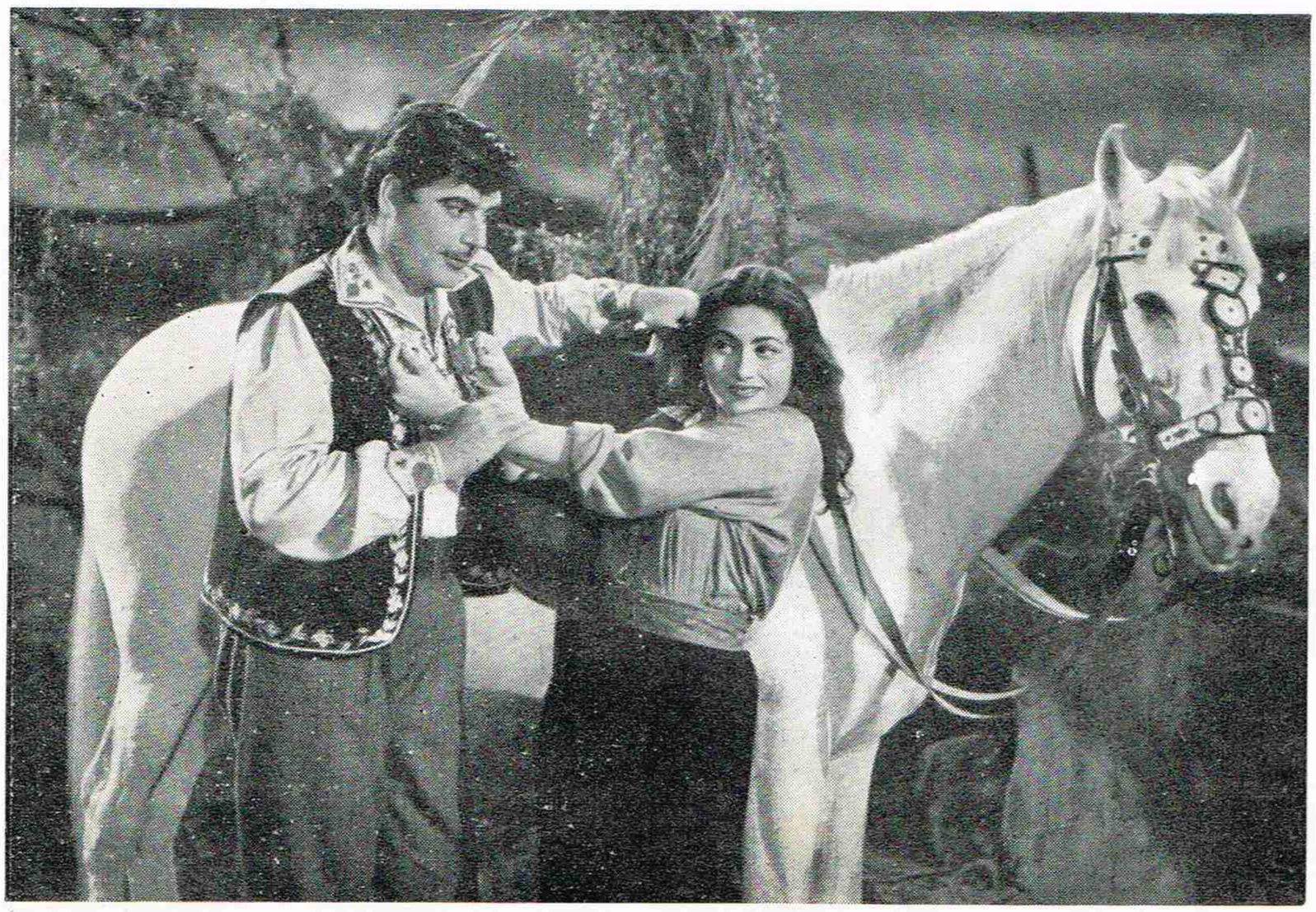
"Have you ever come to Matunga Market? It presents a most lively scene in the evenings. The crowds are cosmopolitan and the bazar is truly multi-lingual. It is a pleasure to mix with the crowds of men and women — Madrasis, Marathis, Gujeratis, Punjabis, Sindhis, Bengalis, etc., who have made Matunga their home. The display of hundreds of kinds of vegetables and flowers, the frantic shoutings and the unending hagglings, the curious accents of the vendors who speak simultaneously with several customers in their respective languages, the humorous and angry exchanges, all add to the interest of the busy spectacle. Indeed, Joseph Addison would have written a beautiful essay on the Matunga Market on the lines of his "Royal Exchange". I often go there, in addition to my marketing errands, whenever I feel the need for some enlivenment.

"But there is, as usual, the darker and sorrier side of the picture. Suddenly there is a widespread commotion. The pavement vendors, even as they are weighing the vegetables or are about to take money from their customers, rush helter-skelter as if in fear of their lives. One fears if rioting has suddenly started. But those who know, like me, what it is are not scared. They know it is only the Municipal encroachment removal lorry which has come to confiscate the goods of the non-licence holders. Strangely enough, some of the sellers go on unperturbed but some others, generally the poorest of the lot, have their goods mercilessly confiscated. It is indeed pathetic to hear their cries at their bread being taken away from them. On asking the reason for this open discrimination, I have been informed that those who pay their weekly dues to the department concerned are left untouched whereas the others are harassed. Here, as everywhere else, those who cannot afford to give the devil his due suffer, while those who have the sense and the capacity to please the persons concerned, go scot-free. I have been familiar with this sight since the days of the British. But then there was not such constant and large-scale harassment of the poor victims. The encroachment lorry would come only once in a while and the pavement vendors were able to ply their trade with more safety and security.

"I am told that corruption has become more systematic and thorough nowadays. It may be that non-licence holders cannot be permitted to sell on the pavement, but why not make proper arrangements for them? Everyone knows that most of the purchases are made on the pavements. Why not regularise the whole thing and end this unjust farce? Is it because those who stand to gain by the present system will be the losers thereby? It is indeed a sight to excite pity, besides representing a scandalous state of affairs. I used to think when I was younger that this evil would be removed with the achievement of independence. Have I not reason to feel sorry and ashamed that it should have assumed the present proportions instead?"

BOMBAY. **B. Subba Rao.**

**Some faces become Mongolian with age and comfort. This one is fast changing. Watch Meena Kumari in "Shatranj", a romantic tale.**



**They must have been standing like that for ages because the horse looks bored. Horses cannot understand the human patience in romance. They know that no mare can tolerate delay from a horse worth his oats. But then human beings are bipeds and must behave differently as Ajit and Madhubala are doing in "Najma", a tale of love and adventure.**

## MIRACLE MONGER

"It was a very disillusioning experience indeed to go through Celestial Pictures' much-boosted "Jagadguru Shankarachar-

That is not Nero, the fiddling Roman emperor. In Indian pictures they dress anyone anyhow with regard to sex or looks. This one with the flowery band across the forehead is a woman who fiddles when hearts burn. Let us see what she is doing with her aiming eyes in "Sipah Salar", a thrilling entertainment.

ya." Coming as it was from S. Fatehlal, a name that I held in esteem, I had expected the picture to be a faithful and convincing biography of the great preacher-philosopher. But my expectations were extremely short-lived. In the very first reel, it became more than evident to me that the picture was going to degenerate into a cheap mythological with all its standard ingredients. And it did!

"Shankaracharya is a character of history and not of mythology. But the way his life has been presented on the screen, it would seem that he was a contemporary of Rishi Vishwamitra or Bharadwaja. The picture runs more than 14,800 feet and records not less than 38 miracles (I counted them!), but nowhere in the entire length are we ever taken into confidence as to the time when Shankaracharya lived. I asked the man occupying the next seat and he hazarded the pre-Christ era. It was only after reading your review of the picture (in the January 1956 issue) that I came to know that Shankaracharya traversed this earth in the 8th century A.D. For not being aware of this fact earlier, you may perhaps call me an ignoramus, but I hope you will agree that by draping this important fact in a shroud of mystery in the picture, S. Fatehlal has not shown much intelligence either!"

CHANDIGARH. **Prithi Paul Singh.**

## WHIPPING IS INEXPENSIVE

"I congratulate Judas for his article on "Raping With Betel Blood" ("filmindia" of February 1956). He has aptly described spitting as a chronic disease which in turn helps to spread dangerous diseases like T.B. etc. Finding that no useful purpose would be served by means of appeals and sermons to the Indian masses against indiscriminate spitting, he has suggested, as a remedial measure, the enactment of a penal law. This is highly commendable and worthy of consideration by the health authorities concerned especially when the Government is taking all round steps for the improvement of public health in general.

"The Punjab Legislative Assembly is understood to have passed the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill 1952 empowering the Government to prohibit spitting in specified municipal areas of the State. A similar measure, as suggested by Judas, is necessary without delay in all the States in India.

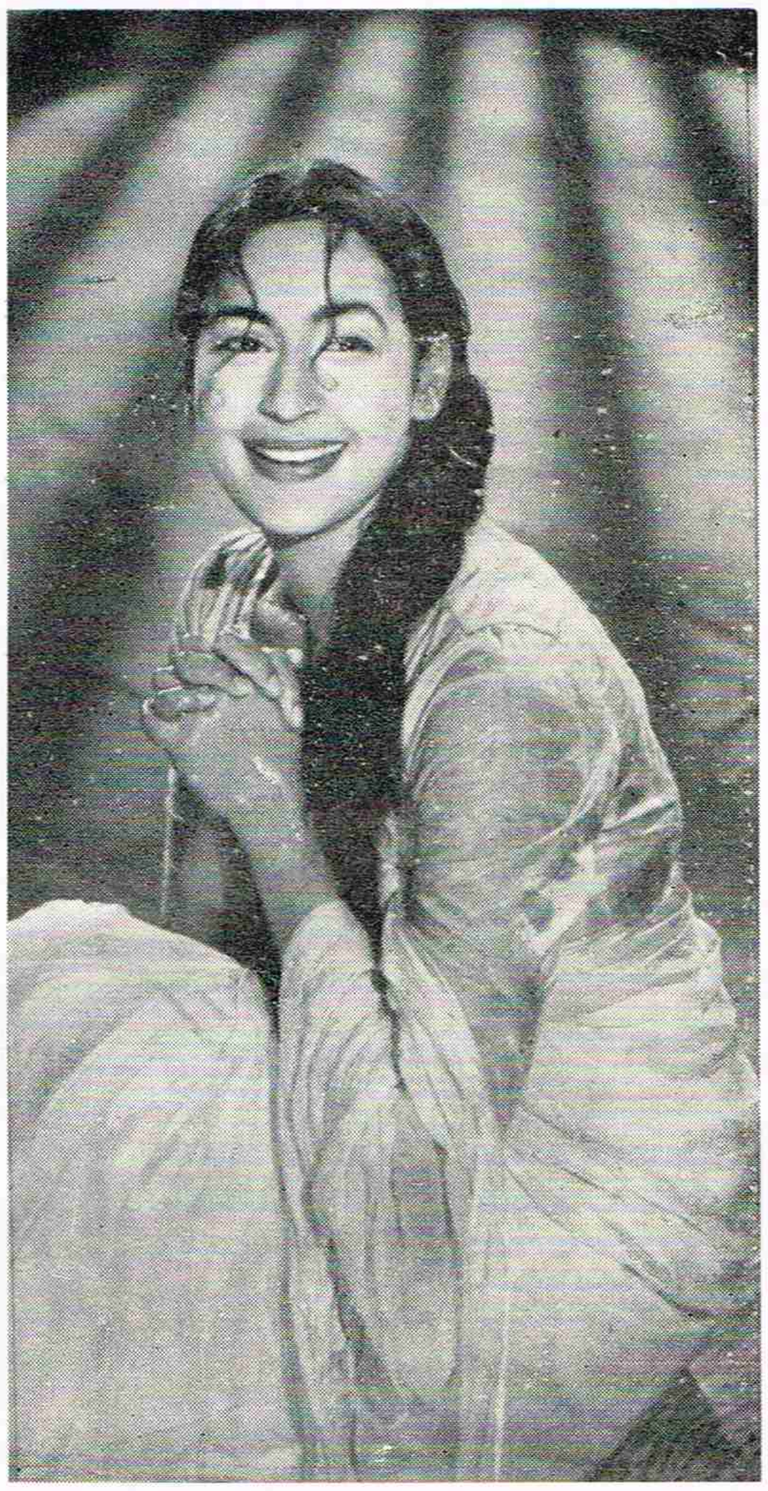
"Special receptacles in street corners and other authorised places may with advantage be provided to enable the public to spit only in those places. Law breakers should be relentlessly punished by imposition of heavy fines. But I do not agree with Judas when he suggests whipping and fasting in jails as suitable forms of punishment because, comparatively, they are more drastic and inhuman. On the contrary, short periods of imprisonment can be considered more adequate and better than whipping and fasting."

POONA. **K. Subramanian.**

## RAJAJI TOOK JOBS HIMSELF

"The old Sanskrit saying "Yatha raja tatha praja" remains as true today as ever though, to suit the present conditions, it has to be slightly altered to "Yatha mantri tatha praja".

"Kings having gone out of fashion, it is now the ministers who have to set example. But, unfortunately, we in India have ministers who believe more in preaching morality than in practising it. They tend to talk high and act low. They sermonise to others, but seem to think nothing of their own misdeeds. This constitutes their general behaviour pattern though there may be many honourable exceptions. They run the country according to their whims and fancies and for the benefit of their friends and favourites. It is tragic and incomprehensible that Nehru should



Cold water is a first class remedy when youthful passion starts burning the terminals. Watch Nutan bring new excitement to the screen in "Baarish", a romantic thriller.

indulgently and nonchalantly overlook the misdoings of his ministers.

"The charge of nepotism levelled against an eminent minister by Judas in the March issue in connection with an important appointment is a serious one involving as it does the influencing of a body like the Public Service Commission which is supposed to be impartial and above board. This is necessary in the interests of upholding the integrity of our administration. If Government departments and public bodies should lose the confidence of the people, it does not augur well for the future of the country.

In this connection I would like to extol Shri Rajaji, the "Tamil Mahatma", who kept himself pure and clean in his various offices. Rajaji has his own vices—if such they could be called—an uncompromising outspokenness, a hatred of inefficiency, a queer, original approach to some problems —but favouritism could not be counted among them. I have reliably learnt that when he was the Governor of Bengal, he refused to give even a letter of recommendation to his own nephew—that too for a paltry job of a hundred and fifty rupees or so. I have been told that though the nephew in question was cursing his uncle for not helping him in the earning of his daily bread—which was but natural —he was also expressing admiration for his illustrious relative for his uprightness in public life. Is not Rajaji's example worthy of being emulated by all ministers and men in influential position? Don't you feel like respecting the "Old Fox of the South" rather than wolves in sheep's clothing?"

BOMBAY. **S. R. Badanidiyoor.**

**Here is a girl offering her heart for sale and she does it with rhythm in her feet. Youth always has a heart for sale but buyers are few these days because of shortage of housing accommodation. Let us see what bargain Shyama offers in "Chhoo Mantar", an exciting romance produced and directed by M. Sadiq.**

**Not all babies become pretty maids but Tabassum seems to have become a smiling sizeable maiden—and an attractive one too. She will be seen in "Yahudi-ki-Beti".**

## LET NEHRU ANSWER

"'An Expensive Humbug' by Judas in the March issue about the Bombay branch of the Press Information Bureau furnishes another proof that there is no dearth of farces, as of fads, in independent India and that though freedom might not have profited the people, it has proved a blessing at least to a few.

"In the pre-independence era, we used to attack the extravagance of the administration, but what other term than criminal luxury can we give to the wasteful expenditure indulged in by every Government department at present? If the allegations made by Judas about the Bombay Bureau are true, and I have no doubt they are, supported as they are by facts and figures, it represents a scandalous state of affairs which tax-payers cannot and should not tolerate.

"A good government having the professed objective of the people's welfare cannot allow any inefficiency, arrogance or carelessness among its officers and servants. As for waste, it is always a crime, the more so when the country is still poor, as in India. If the Bombay Bureau can be taken as a typical instance of how a government department works in independent India, it certainly does not speak highly of our administration or of those in charge of it. No wonder everybody in India dreams of a cushy government job with its security and smug complacency, its various advantages and privileges and, quite often, ample opportunities for the practice of corruption. But can we really afford to maintain such expensive and unnecessary farces and to pamper officers so grossly negligent of duty? Is our government being run by the same Congress which once upon a time stood to abolish all sinecures, not excluding even governors and ambassadors? The scandalous state of affairs in the Bombay Bureau needs to be seriously gone into. Is it to keep a fortunate few rolling in luxury that the people are magnanimously called upon to make sacrifices?"

BOMBAY. **B. Sudha Rao.**

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# A MIGHTY MYTHOLOGICAL WITH A MESSAGE!

## SUBHASH DESAI

PRESENTS

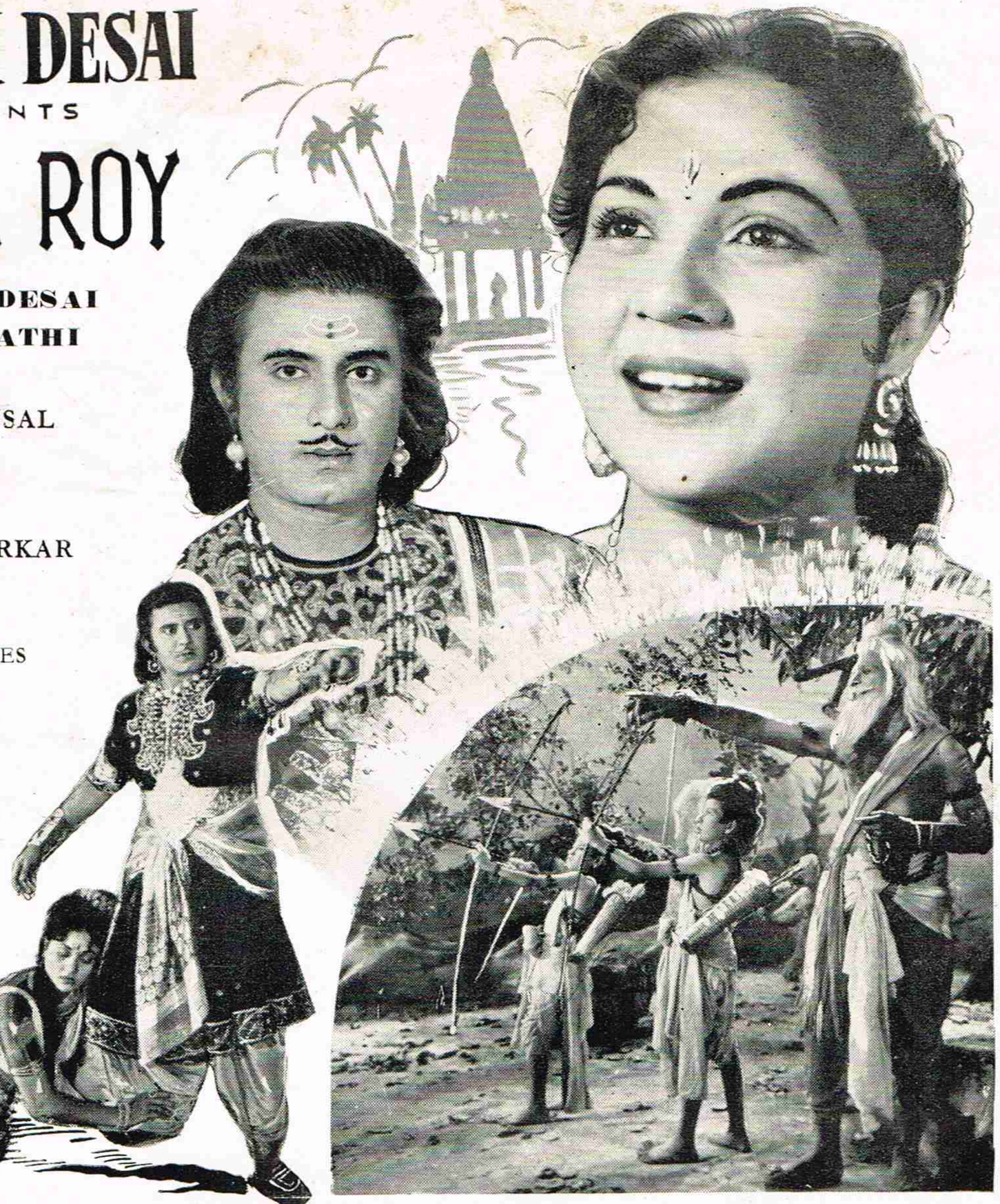
# NIRUPA ROY

**MANHAR DESAI**
**S. N. TRIPATHI**
RAJ RANI
INDIRA BANSAL
BABU RAJE
SAMAR ROY
MALAYA SARKAR

★

GUEST ARTISTES

SHEIKH
P. KAILASH
AND
**MAHIPAL**



*in* ***Mukti films'***

ASHA ADVTS

# SATI Naag Kanya

*Directed by:* **BABUBHAI MISTRY** *(TRICK WIZARD)*

★

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S. N. TRIPATHI

Scenario & Dialogue—
MANOO DESAI

Songs—
MISRA & DEEPAK

Dance Direction—
SATYANARAYAN & MANDLOI

Photography—
SATYANARAYAN

Audiography—
JEHANGIR KHAJURINA

Art Direction—
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